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Snail-mail smuggling

Criminals are using the Canadian postal system to transport guns, grenades and dangerous chemicals, an RCMP report says PAGE 8

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... they want their racial stereotypes back. Bored with quips about Indian comics, Aziz Ansari hopes to strike a deeper chord with audiences PAGE 19

MMA king versus the big Swede

His opponent may be taller, but UFC's Jon Jones is still the odds-on favourite PAGE 33

SOME CLOSURE ON A PAINFUL PAST

PROVINCE AGREES TO PAY $35M AND FORMALLY APOLOGIZE TO FORMER RESIDENTS OF HURONIA REGIONAL CENTRE PAGE 3

DICKEY SHOWS HIS MIGHT

Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey heaves a knuckler during Tuesday night's game against the New York Yankees at the Rogers Centre. Dickey struck out eight in seven shutout innings as the Jays defeated the Yankees 2-0. See story, page 34. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two more TCHC probes underway

Wellesley Street building. One inquiry said to be looking into the possibility its for-profit maintenance agency falsified documents

The troubled Toronto Community Housing Corp. is facing two potentially damaging investigations that have not been revealed until now — one into possible financial wrongdoing, one into its hiring and promotion practices.

The first investigation, launched by the TCHC itself, is probing the possibility that documents were falsified by a former TCHC-owned subsidiary called Housing Services Inc.

Housing Services did maintenance and construction projects for both the TCHC and other Ontario landlords, including Ottawa Community Housing. According to two people briefed on the investigation, Housing Services may have altered documents to make it appear as though expenses from work actually done in Ottawa were from work done at the TCHC's 200 Wellesley St. E. building in the aftermath of a major 2010 fire there.

"Toronto Community Housing has ongoing investigations with regards to various matters. I can confirm that one of our investigations is a forensic accounting investigation related to HSI and 200 Wellesley," TCHC spokeswoman Sara Goldvine said in an email.

Improperly allocating expenses to 200 Wellesley could have made the Ottawa project appear more profitable than it was. Such a scheme could also have had serious insurance implications: the TCHC submitted a claim to its insurer, AIG, for 200 Wellesley costs.

AIG has been notified of the situation, said Bud Purves, chair of the TCHC board of directors.

"At whatever point, I'm confident that the police will be involved," said Coun. Cesar Palacio, another member of the board.

The two investigations come on top of a third investigation, into possible "kickbacks" and double-billing, that was announced and discussed by TCHC chief executive Gene Jones in February.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Personnel moves

- The second investigation is being conducted by city ombudsman Fiona Crean.
- She is studying personnel moves during TCHC chief executive Gene Jones' 15-month tenure, in which there has been high turnover in the management ranks.
- Both the TCHC and Crean said they couldn't speak about an ongoing ombudsman probe.

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Huronia abuse suit settled

$35 million granted. Emotional and physical mistreatment alleged at provincial facility for developmentally disabled

Most of the 2,000 children and adults buried in the unkempt field across from the Huronia Regional Centre were laid to rest in unmarked graves. Others are identified by numbers scrawled on small slabs of concrete hidden amid overgrown grass.

For former residents of the government-run institution for the developmentally delayed in Orillia, the cemetery has long served as a painful reminder of the alleged neglect and abuse that occurred there.

But that may soon change. On Tuesday, the Ontario government settled a historic class-action lawsuit with former residents of Huronia. The terms include $35 million, a formal apology — and a promise to maintain the cemetery and create a registry of all those buried there.

"I'm happy with the settlement, but I just think about all the pain and death and loss," said Marilyn Dolmage, a litigation guardian for Marie Slark, one of two lead plaintiffs in the case. "The class action is about the survivors, but the survivors are honouring those that didn't survive."

The settlement, which is still subject to court approval, was announced in a Toronto courtroom after the start of the long-awaited hearing was adjourned on Monday for 24 hours, prompting concern among some former residents that their stories would not be heard.

About 3,700 surviving residents are eligible to file a claim for part of the $35-million settlement, which is a fraction of the $1 billion in general damages the plaintiffs were seeking for the alleged abuses they said the Crown knew were occurring, but failed to take action to prevent. They sought an additional $1 billion in punitive damages. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

They didn't do a very good job of keeping the graves up. It's like they wanted to forget that those people existed."

Marie Slark, plaintiff

Carrie Ford Tomkins holds a photo of herself when she was a little girl at the Huronia Regional Centre for the developmentally disabled, after a $2-billion class-action lawsuit against the Ontario government for alleged abuse against residents at the institution was settled on Tuesday. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Island airport

Federal review slated for Porter runway proposals

The Toronto Port Authority has formally asked Transport Canada to look at two separate runway-extension proposals, put forward by Porter Airlines to allow CSeries jets to fly out of the island airport.

Transport Canada officials are expected to offer results of their review by the end of October, according to an interim City of Toronto staff report released Tuesday.

Porter president Robert Deluce
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES VIA GETTY IMAGES

However, port authority spokeswoman Pamela McDonald said the submission was done merely as a "procedural" move as the operator of the airport, and that the port authority has not taken any position on Porter's expansion plans.

The port authority has said it will wait to see what city council decides, though it is also evaluating the plans.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Competition

Maple Leaf Forever tree may live on through art

The storied tree, said to be the inspiration for Alexander Muir's iconic song, The Maple Leaf Forever, may be remembered in an art competition that will salvage its remaining wood after it was destroyed in a storm this summer.

Crowds gathered to mourn the silver giant on July 20, the morning after a severe storm struck the maple down across the road and sidewalk of 62 Laing Street, where, legend says, Muir stumbled upon his inspiration almost 150 years ago.

City council is set to consider a proposal in October for a $150,000 national art competition. Competition details are not yet available.
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It's one Hell-uva retail shop

Outlet. Hells Angels open Leslieville store

Six years after their Eastern Avenue clubhouse was shut down by police, the Hells Angels have apparently returned to the neighbourhood.

At the new retail store at 98 Carlaw Ave., a five-minute walk away, the number 81 in the window identifies the store's affiliation to the motorcycle club. Those numbers refer to the eighth and first letters of the alphabet, for "HA" — or Hells Angels.

Inside, red, white and black T-shirts, sweatshirts and stickers emblazoned with skulls, flames and "Support Local 81 Downtown" were on display Tuesday.

The products for sale were not printed with the club name specifically. According to club rules, non-members can wear the "81" but not HA or Hells Angels. The website hellsangelstorontodowntown.com thanked the club's "friends and supporters" and announced the store's new location before it was taken offline Tuesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"After five years and 11 months of trial, a jury found us innocent of criminal organization. We are still fighting for our clubhouse."

Hells Angels website

The 81 store at 98 Carlaw Ave. sells memorabilia associated with the Hells Angels. ZOE MCKNIGHT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Real estate. Condos lead the way as home sales in GTA jump 29 per cent

House sales skyrocketed by 29 per cent year over year across the GTA as of mid-September, with the highly watched condo sector leading the way, according to figures released by the Toronto Real Estate Board Tuesday.

Condo sales were up 36 per cent across the GTA — 42.6 per cent in the City of Toronto — with prices up 2.4 per cent over mid-September of 2012, spurred on largely by recent increases in fixed-rate mortgages and buyers rushing to get into the market before 90- and 120-day mortgage pre-approvals expire.

Overall sales of everything from detached homes to townhomes and condos were up 29 per cent as of mid-month, year over year. Prices increased four per cent with the average residential home price across the GTA now some $514,560, according to TREB.

"The strong growth in sales that we have seen over the past two-and-a-half months indicates that GTA households are approaching home ownership with a renewed sense of confidence," said TREB president Dianne Usher in a statement.

"Prospective home buyers have taken a hard look at their household balance sheets over the past year and have found that, despite stricter lending guidelines, there are affordable property types from which to choose."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Price fluctuations

- The average house sale price in the City of Toronto now stands at $531,388, down from $534,782 as of mid September of 2012.
- That compares to $504,909 in the 905 regions, up from $473,031 at this time last year.

Toka, Thika and Iringa

Three Toronto Zoo elephants heading to California after Thanksgiving

Three aging elephants at the Toronto Zoo will get one last Thanksgiving meal before making the trek to their new home at an animal sanctuary in California. The zoo says that pending the receipt of elephant-moving permits Toka, Thika and Iringa will travel to the PAWS Wildlife Sanctuary near Sacramento, Calif., after the Thanksgiving weekend.

It says the trio are undergoing training for their big move, and that areas around the elephant exhibit will at times be closed to visitors to help them concentrate.

The option of getting the animals to California by plane was taken off the table earlier this summer, and the latest plan has them rolling south on trucks in what is expected to be a 50-hour journey.

National zoo watchdog Zoocheck Canada has said at least two veterinarians and six handlers would be accompanying the elephants on their journey, with several stops for refuelling and checkups.

Toronto City Council voted in 2011 to send the three elephants to the U.S. facility after groups voiced concern about the animals' welfare. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Activists want to cut ties with student union

CFS. Grad student says body is 'ineffective' and 'undemocratic'

Student activists in the GTA and elsewhere in Canada are calling on their campus governments to withdraw from the Canadian Federation of Students, the largest collective of student unions in the country.

Ashleigh Ingle, a University of Toronto grad student, described a "loose network" of disaffected pupils at 15 schools — including U of T, Ryerson and York University — who are pushing to "defederate" their unions from the national body.

She would only name seven of the schools, citing the wishes of some activists not to "experience the onslaught" of a Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) counter movement.

"Initially, our issue was really just that we see it as an ineffective organization," said Ingle, 28, identified as a spokesperson for the initiative in a Sept. 4 press release.

"Then we saw that it was also completely undemocratic. They had no interest in transparency, or having students be the ones behind campaigns or the direction of the organization," she said.

CFS internal co-ordinator Brent Farrington dismissed the agitation as the actions of a "handful" of activists at "a couple" of campuses.

"We're not seeing it. They won't even say what the schools are where they're alleging this is happening," said Farrington.

Farrington also took issue with the charge that the CFS is "undemocratic," describing how any member can issue motions to the annual general meeting, all of which are discussed and voted upon.

"For an organization of our size, we actually have one of the most open, democratic processes of any group in Canada," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In defence of

"It's becoming very clear to us that the quote-unquote movement that is being cited for media purposes is certainly not the reality."

Brent Farrington, CFS internal co-ordinator

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More research for SickKids

Hunter Kemp, 6, a leukemia survivor, and Mary Jo Haddad, president and CEO of The Hospital for Sick Children, cut the ribbon at the grand opening celebration of the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning Tuesday. Peter Gilgan, lead donor, and Tim Hockey, campaign chair, look on. COURTESY J.P. MOCZULSKI

All over $1,045?

Collision dispute escalates into murder, cops say

A Toronto man has been charged with murder after police say a dispute over a collision between a truck and a scooter escalated into a violent death.

Police say Anthony Chang, 62, was driving a scooter in the city's north end last Tuesday when he was involved in a crash with a Ford pickup truck (near Mount Pleasant Road and Roehampton Avenue). The men met two days later at Chang's home to discuss the $1,045 in damage done to his scooter when an altercation erupted and turned violent.

Kimnarine Maharaj, 24, is charged with second-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fire. Teens purchase new Grand Theft Auto, save life

Two teenagers on their way home from a midnight video game launch are being credited with helping rescue a man trapped in a burning house north of Toronto.

Richmond Hill Fire Chief Steve Kraft says the teens were returning after picking up a copy of the newly-released Grand Theft Auto V when they saw smoke pouring from the 70-year-old man's home around 1 a.m. Tuesday.

Kraft says the boys — aged 16 and 17 — kicked in a door and tried to get inside but were forced back by heavy smoke. He says the teens then called 911 and fire crews arrived on the scene within minutes.

Kraft says the man was found semi-conscious in his living room and rushed to hospital with major smoke inhalation, where he remains in stable condition. Police say the fire doesn't appear to be suspicious.

"I'm very proud that two young boys — or young adults — would act the way they did," Kraft said. "Hopefully the gentleman survives. I'd definitely attribute saving his life to those two young boys."

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Special delivery. Drugs, weapons arriving in Canada through the mail

Criminals are using the Canadian postal system to transport illicit goods including guns, grenades, dangerous chemicals and, in one case, even a rocket launcher, says a newly declassified RCMP report.

Counterfeit items — from fake Olympic hockey sweaters to bogus passports — as well as drugs such as cocaine and heroin are also arriving in the country through Canada Post, says the report.

It calls for greater collaboration between police and postal officials to detect suspect parcels, noting legislation limits the ability of police to search and seize mail.

"There is a diverse range of contraband goods being shipped through the Canadian postal system, some of which pose a risk to the safety of Canadians," says the November 2012 report, which draws on information from more than a dozen police forces and Canada's border agency.

"In one instance, a rocket launcher was even found entering through the mail."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminals are using the Canadian postal system to transport illicit goods, says a newly declassified RCMP report. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Saint Mary's student returns degrees

Frosh week pro-rape chant. Calgary businessman urges president to step down to help repair 'damaged reputations'

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

In the cool air of Tuesday morning, Daren Miller leaned his two degrees from Saint Mary's University against the fence around the former Halifax Infant's Home and walked away.

Miller, a chartered financial analyst living in Calgary, flew to Halifax to return his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce degrees to Saint Mary's in the wake of a pro-rape chant caught on video during frosh week.

Hundreds of first-year students were led in a chant spelling out "young," with lines like, "U is for underage, N is for no consent."

Saint Mary's registrar Paul Dixon greeted Miller and accepted the degrees after they were placed against the fence.

"I feel very sad having done it. It represented five years of extremely hard work," said Miller, who graduated in 1995.

The degrees will also be removed from his resumé, Miller said, because he wanted to distance himself from the culture of misogyny at the university.

Miller called for Saint Mary's president Colin Dodds to step down on Tuesday, saying a culture shift can only happen with "change at the top."

"The university respects his right to protest," said university spokesperson Steve Proctor, who added Miller had turned down Dodds' invitation of a private meeting.

Miller said despite his own feelings, turning over the degrees was also to stand with those who feel "marginalized" at Saint Mary's, and with victims of sexual abuse across the country.

Daren Miller of Calgary poses for a portrait in Halifax prior to returning his degrees to Saint Mary's University on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

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Q&A

‘Stepping stone to the presidency’

MADANI CHEURFA
Director of CEVIPOF, Sciences Po University, Paris

How important is the mayor of Paris?

The answer is related to how important Paris is in France. Being mayor of Paris means managing 2.2 million inhabitants including 50,000 civil servants, and heading a budget of 8 billion euros. Since Jacques Chirac, the position of mayor of Paris is considered a stepping stone to the presidency.

Will this election have an effect on French politics?

It’s a way of weighing in on national policies: Support (if the left wins) or disagreement (if the right wins) towards the government. If NKM wins, she’ll be seen as a leader of the future.

Is there too much focus on the all-female aspect of the race?

This takes attention away from Parisian problems such as pollution, housing, jobs and traffic. But this is not new.

ELISABETH BRAW/
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

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All women in Paris mayor race

Vote. Paris is gearing up for a historic all-female election for mayor — one of France’s most powerful positions

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News in London

Before being elected president of France, Jacques Chirac was mayor of Paris. That illustrates the power of the post. And as the current mayor, socialist Bertrand Delanoë, prepares to step down, the race to succeed him is heating up.

It’s attracting more attention than usual, as all the candidates are women. Polls place Delanoë’s deputy, Anne Hidalgo, as favourite. But close behind is Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, a 40-year-old ex-minister in Nicolas Sarkozy’s cabinet. Rounding out the power trio is Green leader Cécile Duflot, a minister in François Hollande’s cabinet. Rachida Dati, Sarkozy’s glamorous former justice minister, has dropped out of the race.

Hidalgo, 54, suggests that the all-female race — the first-ever for a major political post in France — is no big deal. “Parisians love being one step ahead,” she tells Metro.

Because the mayoral seat is considered one of France’s most powerful offices — a springboard to the presidency — this election, due in March 2014, is unique. “This race is unusual because the candidates are not household names,” explains Philippe Marlière, a professor of French politics at University College London.

“Hidalgo is seen as a good manager, but she’s neither well-known nor charismatic. But many famous names were already in major posts, and when it became clear that Hidalgo would run, the conservative UMP party picked Kosciusko-Morizet — also lesser-known.”

As the election campaign starts, voters can expect the temperature to rise. Hidalgo’s supporters see NKM’s upper-class background as a liability, whereas NKM’s team will brand Hidalgo a tired Paris City Hall insider. Chirac’s wife, Bernadette, who supports her fellow conservative NKM, has already taken to calling Hidalgo “that woman with the dark hair,” casting aspersions on the deputy mayor’s Spanish roots.

The key players

1 Anne Hidalgo

Deputy mayor of Paris
PS (Socialist Party)
Known as: Life-long socialist
Age: 54

2 Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet

Ex-minister under Sarkozy’s UMP party
Known as: Upper-class
Age: 40

3 Cécile Duflot

Minister of Housing
Green Party
Known as: Chic green revolutionary
Age: 38

Navy Yard suspect heard voices: Report

Suspected Navy Yard gunman Aaron Alexis. FBI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mental state. Aaron Alexis feared voices he heard might harm him, according to Rhode Island police report

A month before he went on the rampage that left 13 dead, Washington Navy Yard gunman Aaron Alexis complained to police in Rhode Island that people were talking to him through the walls and ceilings of his hotel rooms and sending microwave vibrations into his body to prevent him from sleeping.

The account, contained in an Aug. 7 report from the Newport, R.I., police department, adds to the picture that has emerged since Monday's baffling attack of an agitated and erratic naval contractor.

A day after the assault in the U.S. capital, the motive was still a mystery. U.S. law enforcement officials said that investigators had found no manifesto or other writings suggesting a political or religious motive.

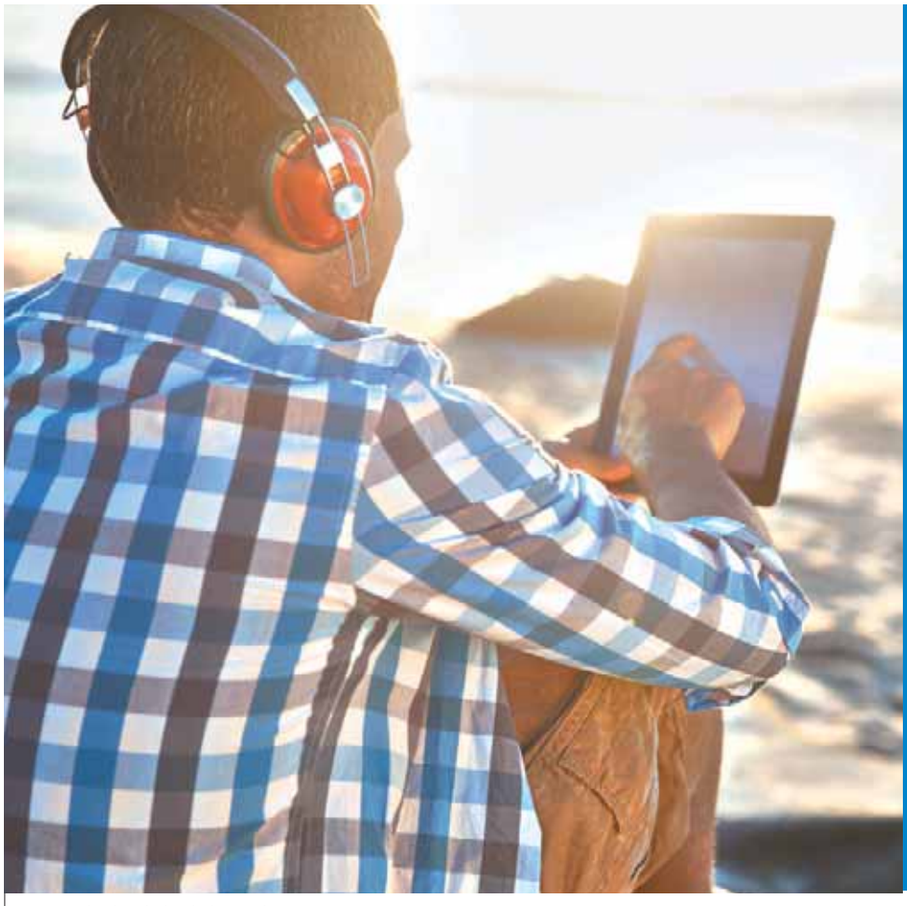
They said Alexis, a 34-year-old information-technology employee with a defence contractor, used a valid pass to get into the heavily secured Washington Navy Yard and then killed 12 people before he was gunned down by police in a shootout that lasted more than a half-hour.

Alexis had been undergoing mental-health treatment from Veterans Affairs since August but was not stripped of his security clearance, according to the law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the criminal investigation was still going on.

He had been suffering a host of serious mental problems, including paranoia and a sleep disorder, and had been hearing voices in his head, the officials said.

The assault is raising more questions about the adequacy of the background checks done on contract employees and others who are issued security clearances — an issue that came up most recently with U.S. National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, an IT employee with a government contractor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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'Evil child.' Miracle that girl survived 18 months of abuse: Kids' watchdog

British Columbia's children's watchdog says a girl who was nearly starved to death endured 18 months of horrific abuse after being branded an "evil child" at her grandfather's home in Saskatchewan.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond made the comments Tuesday as she released a report examining the tragic treatment of a three-and-a-half-year-old aboriginal girl who was moved from B.C. to Saskatchewan, where her mistreatment continued.

She added it's a miracle the girl, who now is eight years old, survived her mistreatment.

Turpel-Lafond said policies and standards for placing vulnerable children in homes across Canada must undergo reviews.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back up again

The Costa Concordia ship is seen after it was lifted upright, off the Tuscan Island of Giglio, Italy, Tuesday morning. Engineers declared success as the Costa Concordia cruise ship was pulled completely upright during a complicated, 19-hour operation to wrench it from its side where it capsized last year off Tuscany. It was an unprecedented feat that sets the stage for it to be towed away next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

England robbery

Man stabbed over video game: Cops

British police say a man who bought a copy of Grand Theft Auto V when it went on sale at midnight was attacked, stabbed and robbed of the game on his way home in London, England.

Police said the 23-year-old man, who has not been named, was attacked near a supermarket in north London early Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'Strength and expertise.' Trudeau calls in Freeland for economic advice

Justin Trudeau has tapped Chrystia Freeland to help craft economic policy for the Liberal platform in 2015.

The choice of Freeland as co-chair of an economic advisory council serves a double purpose: bolstering the Liberal leader's relatively weak economic credentials as well as Freeland's profile before she runs in the upcoming Toronto Centre byelection, which promises to be an epic struggle for supremacy between the Liberals and NDP.

Trudeau called Freeland "a tremendous source of strength and expertise" for the Liberal party. Her emphasis on income inequality fits neatly with Trudeau's stated priority to improve the lot of struggling middle-class families. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau holds a press conference on Parliament Hill on Tuesday with Chrystia Freeland, the new Liberal candidate for Toronto Centre.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haida Gwaii

Parks Canada goes to war with rats

Parks Canada is trying to take back two remote islands in the Haida Gwaii archipelago from a sea of rats, dropping poison pellets from a helicopter for the first time in Canada.

Experts hope the aerial drop will eradicate the rats that now number in the hundreds of thousands on Murchison and Faraday islands. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Endangered species

Ottawa to protect sage grouse

After having its legal feathers ruffled in court, the federal government says it is moving to protect the endangered sage grouse. Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq said Tuesday the government intends to introduce an emergency protection order for the bird native to the southern Prairies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE – UPDATE

DID THE LOSS OF A FAMILY MEMBER IN ONTARIO BEFORE JUNE 14, 2010, RESULT IN A CORONER'S INVESTIGATION AND AUTOPSY?

In the past, organs were sometimes kept for testing after an autopsy to help investigate and determine the cause of death. Before June 14, 2010, families were not always told that an organ had been kept.

Under Regulation 180 of the *Coroners Act*, these organs were to undergo disposition on June 14, 2013. The organs will now be kept for at least five more years because it has become clear that people need more time to learn about this difficult issue.

Immediate family members and personal representatives (i.e. those responsible for administering an estate) are invited to contact the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Office of the Chief Coroner if they wish to learn whether an organ was retained in their loved one's case.

Some organs may no longer be available due to past practices. In cases where an organ was retained and is still being stored, the organ can be sent to a funeral home for cremation or burial at the expense of the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Since June 14, 2010, Regulation 180 under the *Coroners Act* ensures that, when possible, families are notified and their wishes are sought if an organ must be retained after an autopsy.

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PQ opens door to 'improving' values charter

Debate over minority rights. Government says it will potentially amend plan before it's tabled as a bill this fall

The Parti Québécois says it could amend its controversial values charter based on public input it receives before submitting the minority-accommodation plan to the legislature.

The comments come one week after the release of the PQ's proposals, which has touched off an acrimonious debate on minority rights.

That promise to listen, and potentially amend the religion plan before it's tabled as a bill this fall, echoes statements from the PQ during the summer.

"We're looking at ways to improve the proposal," said Quebec's minister responsible for Montreal, Jean-Francois Lisee, on Tuesday.

"We're listening. It's been less than one week, we're asking people to participate and we'll take these into consideration."

He offered no details on what the potential changes might look like.

Because the current plan has no opposition support the minority government could either water it down, split it in half or preserve the entire thing for use in an election campaign.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Proposal

- The PQ wants to forbid public employees from wearing visible religious symbols including hijabs, turbans, yarmulkes and larger-than-average crucifixes.
- A poll this week suggests the plan has the support of most Quebec francophones, but that the support levels have dropped considerably.

All-nations gathering paddles for a cause

Members of the Squamish Nation paddle a traditional canoe on False Creek during an all-nations canoe gathering, held as part of Reconciliation Week in Vancouver on Tuesday. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is holding the event from Sept. 18 to 21. The commission was formed by the Canadian government with a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and to inform the public.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vanessa Hussey, *Beetle*, 12pm; May 17, 2013 – Copper Creek Golf Club, Kleinburg

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Victims' families fight committee's quest for standing

Lac-Mégantic disaster.
U.S. bankruptcy trustee says all creditors are already represented at MMA proceedings

Rescue workers at the site of the Lac-Mégantic train derailment on July 16. The crash killed 47 people.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The families of some victims of the deadly rail crash in Lac-Mégantic are opposing a Quebec committee's quest for official standing at Montreal Maine & Atlantic's bankruptcy proceedings in the United States.

The estates of 18 victims of the July 6 derailment and explosion told a U.S. court in Maine that they object to the Quebec group's efforts to be appointed as an official creditors' committee to represent the provincial government, the municipality and some wrongful death and personal injury claimants, along with those that sustained property damages.

Trustee Robert Keach says the committee's appointment is unnecessary because he represents the interests of all creditors, including the victims of the derailment and those who filed class-action suits in Illinois. He adds that recognizing the committee would increase costs and "sap what limited resources of the debtor exist."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hazardous rail cargo

Mayors face pushback from feds

A push by municipal leaders to know more about hazardous rail cargo rattling through their communities is raising security concerns in the federal government.

Claude Dauphin, the president of the municipal federation, says Transport Canada officials are concerned any advance information on the movement of hazardous goods could fall into the wrong hands. But he says mayors are not looking for individual cargo manifests.

Celebrity spokescat

Shut up and eat the kibble: Grumpy Cat gets food deal

It probably won't affect her mood, but Grumpy Cat now has an endorsement deal. The frown-faced web sensation, real name Tardar Sauce, is now the "spokescat" for a Friskies brand of cat food, Nestle Purina PetCare said Tuesday. Photos of Grumpy Cat, her brown and white face in a constant scowl, are a constant presence on social media.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THESE WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Some addictions are bad for you, e.g. crack cocaine or cracked pepper potato chips.

Some addictions are good for you, e.g. Iron-Man triathlons.

Some addictions, it's hard to tell, e.g. peanuts and trivia.

An addiction to trivia can have dire consequences for innocent bystanders, especially if you find yourself a captive audience on a crowded airplane or at a dinner party where the main dish is composed mostly of quinoa.

Of course, it depends on the quality of the trivia. There is boring trivia, and then there's the stuff you simply can't get enough of. If you ask me, we spend too much time on the boring stuff — especially on quiz shows like Jeopardy and the Million Second Quiz. It's all about the prize money, but the trivia, meh.

It doesn't have to be that way. Did you know that the universe is shaped like a vuvuzela (that annoying South African soccer horn)? Well, you do now. Just try to forget it.

Or how about: In 2008, a man in Ohio was arrested for having sex with a picnic table. How could you not want to know that?

There's more: Did you know that Saddam Hussein's secret bunker was designed by the grandson of the woman who built Hitler's secret bunker? All in the (Bunker) family …

You need to know this stuff. And there's plenty more where that came from. Precisely 1,224 items in a book created by the people behind the British quiz show QI called 1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off (A quite interesting book).

British quiz shows are more interesting than North American quiz shows because they're not exercises in crass one-upmanship for cash, not that there's anything wrong with that. But QI understands the true beauty of trivia. Once you know that Italy's biggest business is the Mafia, accounting for $178 billion a year and seven per cent of that country's GDP, you will hold your own wherever you sit at the table.

Trivia is important because "everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts" according to legendary U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1927-2003), which is the epigraph at the outset of 1,227 Facts etc. If you simply can't stand to sit through yet another fatally flawed socio-politico-econo-cultural analysis of this or that big issue, simply wait for a lull in the conversation and let 'em have it:

Did you know that a female ferret will die if she doesn't have sex for a year?

And if that doesn't do it this will: The founder of match.com, Gary Kremen, lost his girlfriend to a man she met on match.com.

You won't even need to justify the interruption and it will instantly dispel any conversational fog built up in the room.

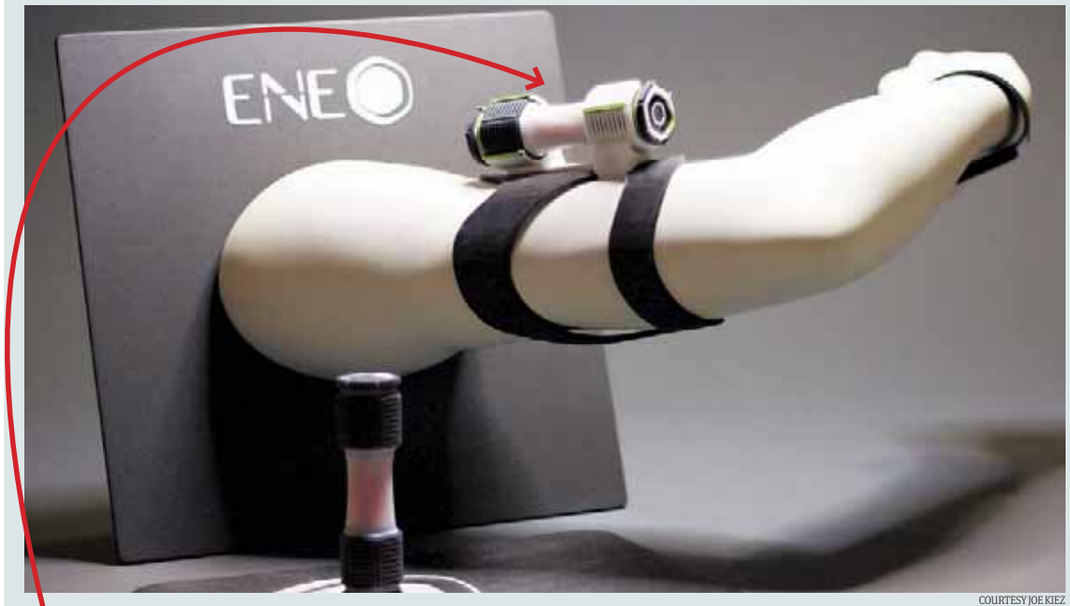
Now, if you're getting bored, here are a couple of quickies to chew on as you head into work this morning:

Light travels 18 million times faster than rain. And Beyoncé is the eighth cousin, four times removed, of Austrian composer Gustav Mahler.

Beats crack cocaine or peanuts, doesn't it?

ZOOM

Battery drained? Use elbow grease



COURTESY JOE KIEZ

Device charges gadgets with human energy

You have lots of energy to make it through the day, but your cellphone battery doesn't. Not anymore.

A student from Humber College, in Toronto, has designed a device that could harvest kinetic energy from human motion to generate energy to charge a wide variety of gadgets such as cellphones, MP3 players, smartphones and tablets. The current design — dubbed ENE — has theoretically demonstrated it can charge 20 times faster than traditional electric methods.

Designed by college student Joe Kiez, the innovation has been nominated and shortlisted for the James Dyson Award. METRO

James Dyson Award

- An international design award from Sir James Dyson, famed U.K. vacuum inventor.
- College and university students compete from 18 countries.
- The winners will be announced Nov. 7.

Power of the people

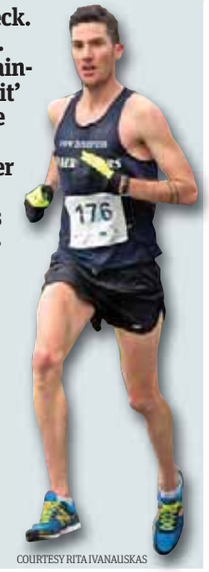
"If you move, you are using and outputting power. Anyone and everyone that moves, has the potential to create harvestable energy."

Joe Kiez, Humber College student and James Dyson Award nominee

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Train? Check. Cross-train? Check. Blog, tweet, Instagram? Check. For many athletes, physical training is just one part of 'making it' as a professional athlete, while hollering at fans and drawing attention to the sport is another (especially for our dear Canadian athletes). Meet Canada's blogging, tweeting, instagramming runners:



COURTESY RITA IVANAUSKAS

Rob Watson:

LeblogduRob.com sheds some light on the life of the London, Ont.-born runner who "digs the sport and digs the grind." You can also find him at @robbiedxc.

Reid Coolsaet:

There's more to this runner's Instagram account than races and roads, follow @reirdcoolsaet for arty portraits, landscapes and even beer drinking. As well, find his ramblings at Float On blog at reidcoolsaet.com.

Twitter

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

@metropicks asked: Three Toronto firefighters were fired for sexist tweets. Should a boss be allowed to axe for personal tweets?

@Cazzy: It's up to the individual to make sure their online presence is hidden enough to not affect their job.

@johnkuypers: Firing 3 Toronto firemen over sexist tweets could be the worst leadership move I've seen in a while.

Comments

RE: Three Toronto Firefighters Sacked Over Sexist Tweets; Unions Express Anger, published Sept. 17

Unions should not be allowed in any governmental office. The provincial statues and federal laws should be enough.

David Fletcher posted to metronews.ca

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metro

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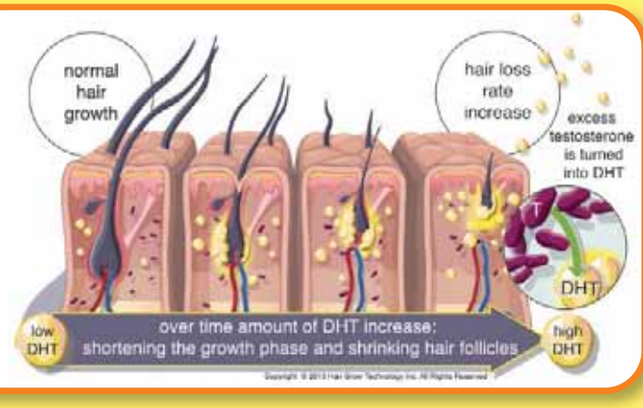
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hair loss rate increase
excess testosterone is turned into DHT
DHT
low DHT
over time amount of DHT increase:
shortening the growth phase and shrinking hair follicles
high DHT

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

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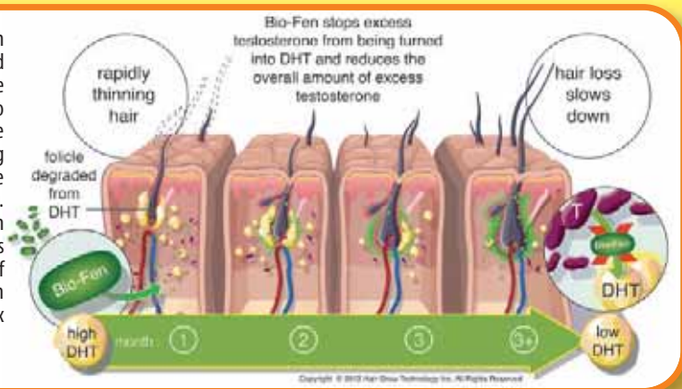

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Love in the time of technology

Aziz Ansari. Comedian aims to hit a deeper chord with audiences in his newest set, which will headline Toronto's JFL42 festival

Have you heard the one about the Indian comic? Because Aziz Ansari has — and he's pretty bored with it.

After enduring some racially inspired jabs at the hands of some of comedy's top stars for Comedy Central's recent roast of bleary-eyed James Franco, Ansari took his turn at the dais and shooting back, with his trademark earnestness: "I think it's so cool that some of you guys were able to travel back in time to 1995 for some of those Indian jokes you did. That's so cool!"

"Even with the sitcoms these days, it's people like me or Mindy Kaling and others — there's no 7-11 jokes or anything like that. I think the culture really has moved beyond that stuff, and that's why it was kind of jarring to hear those kinds of jokes and it's like, 'Really, you're really going to go there with this; you think that stuff is relevant anymore?"' he said in an interview.

He's certainly been around the stand-up circuit long enough, too — 12 sneaky years for the comedian with the boyish features and the contagious on-stage excitability, who has risen to fame by stealing scenes in the NBC comedy Parks and Recreation as the cad Tom Haverford, and in the 2009 Judd Apatow vehicle Funny People.

Now, he's set to headline Toronto's JFL42 comedy festival, which will mark one of the first large-venue crowds that will see his new, still-untitled hour of comedy, exploring love in the time of technology — an issue in which, he says, he has some expertise.

"It's what I'm dealing with in my life — dating, trying to find someone, maybe not trying to find someone," said the 30-year-old. "I write my stand-up about whatever's consuming my head and when I was writing this stuff, that's what I was doing a lot.

"It was like, 'Man, this is such a weird time to be a person trying to find love. It's a very frustrating time in a lot of ways.' And it's struck a chord, with both men and women."

While his previous sets featured more standard comedic observations — stories about his North Carolina upbringing, about the time-sucking properties of the Internet, and the hijinks of his wide-eyed little cousin Harris — he calls this set his most difficult yet, aiming to spew his emotional guts while busting his audience's too.

"(With this set) I really tried to hit in a deeper way than I did with the other shows. This one, I'm really trying to do something different and I think I pull it off, but we'll see."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comedian Aziz Ansari will explore love and technology in his new show. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An amazing victory for father, son

The Amazing Race. Duo wins top prize of $250,000 in cash, two Chevrolet Corvette Stingrays and 10 first-class flights for a year

A father and son from Winnipeg have won the inaugural edition of The Amazing Race Canada.

Tim Hague Sr. and Tim Hague Jr. emerged victorious in a family-themed faceoff against sisters Vanessa Morgan and Celina Mziray, and brothers Cory and Jody Mitic.

The showdown took place in Toronto and capped a slow but steady climb by the Hagues, who were nearly eliminated twice but were saved each time by a surprise twist in the game.

"It's such a release, it really is — we've been holding in this secret for months now, been wanting to scream it to the top of the world, and now we can," the younger Hague said Monday night after watching the finale with the other teams at CTV's Toronto headquarters. "It's awesome."

The broadcast was followed by a live after-show special in which all the teams got to revisit the highs and lows of the reality show, which taped in May and is a spinoff of the popular around-the-world series from the U.S.

That included the elder Hague's surprising come-from-behind victory in the final challenge, where each team was asked to identify the flags and flower emblems of each of the provinces they visited.

Hague completed the challenge first, allowing him and his son to get a head start in the final sprint to the finish line on the Toronto Islands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How they'll spend the cash

- Hague Sr. said he expected to use the money to pay off some debt, a mortgage and to fund some world travelling, starting with a trip to France with his wife.
- Hague Jr. expected to spend a good chunk helping his wife go through law school, and also funding a trip to New Zealand.

Tim Sr. and Tim Jr. celebrate winning the first Amazing Race Canada, with host Jon Montgomery. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revolution, UN team up to shine light on energy crisis

Tracy Spiridakos as Charlie Matheson, left, Billy Burke as Miles Matheson, Daniella Alonso as Nora, and Paras Patel as Albert, in a scene from Revolution. BROWNIE HARRIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cast and crew of J.J. Abrams' post-apocalyptic drama Revolution are kicking off season two at the United Nations to discuss the basis of the show: what happens to people when the power goes off.

Show runner Eric Kripke and stars Billy Burke, Giancarlo Esposito and Tracy Spiridakos are sitting down with officials at the UN Tuesday to talk about the plight of the one-fifth of the world's population that lives without electricity.

The event was sparked by two UN Undersecretaries General — and fans of Revolution — who reached out to Abrams' Bad Robot production house and said they could use some help shining a light on the global energy crisis.

"When J.J. and I were cooking up Revolution we talked a lot about how we are this technology-dependent society and if you remove that infrastructure, much of a society would collapse as a result of something so simple and basic — and Revolution is basically about that at its core underneath all the action and sword swinging," Kripke said. He said the UN outreach was "surreal."

Rebecca Goldman, director of Good Robot, Bad Robot's philanthropic arm, says the UN foundation's focus on energy access seemed like a perfect match. The show's writers will sit down with five UN workers with experience in places like Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan and the Republic of Congo.

"These are people who were negotiating directly with warlords for the release of child soldiers and trying to create infrastructure in places that don't have any power," Kripke said, "and can give you boots-on-the-ground perspective on what life was like."

Kripke and his crew are writing some of those experiences into the show. "We have a character this season who was a warlord and so we were really interested beyond what you hear in headlines and stories, what makes these kinds of people tick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DAY AT H&M

Dress up, fight crime, save the world

New movie. Hugh Jackman stars in the Prisoner, which treads on a familiar theme of taking the law into our own hands

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Hugh Jackman stars in Prisoners, opening this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

In this weekend's movie Prisoners a father, played by Hugh Jackman, kidnaps the man he thinks abducted his daughter and her young best friend.

It's a classic case of vigilante justice, a practice another movie character, Foxy Brown, called "as American as apple pie."

It's also illegal, dangerous and morally unsound, but that doesn't stop Hollywood from featuring vigilantes in their stories.

Comic books have supplied the movies with vigilantes for years.

According to comicbookmovie.com, "It is important to state one truth," they write, "(and) that is, all comic book heroes, unless sanctioned by the government, are vigilantes."

That's a wide group that includes, among others, Batman, Spider-Man and Iron Man.

Lesser known is Rorschach, the anti-hero of the graphic novel The Watchmen and played by Jackie Earle Haley in the movie of the same name.

He's a masked crime fighter who believes in only good and evil. This black-and-white morality drives his ruthless need to punish evil-doers at all costs.

"Were it not for costumed vigilantism," says the actor, "He'd have nothing."

Rorschach is effective and lethal, but Paul Kersey didn't wear a costume to earn his star on the Vigilante Walk of Fame.

As played by Charles Bronson in five Death Wish movies, he cleaned up the streets with an efficiency that would make the Watchmen envious.

In the original 1974 film Kersey is an architect driven to taking the law into his own hands following the brutal murder of his wife.

"If the police don't defend us," he says, "maybe we ought to do it ourselves."

Star Bronson was quick to say that he didn't "advocate anyone taking the law into their own hands," but knew that the Death Wish movies were popular because, "Audiences like to see the bad guys get their comeuppance."

Harry Brown is a gritty Gran Torino with British accents and a dash of Death Wish.

Michael Caine plays the title character as High Noon's Gary Cooper, but instead of being set on the wide open plain, the action in this Teabag Western takes place in the urban terrain of the Elephant and Castle section of London.

"This movie changed me," Caine said.

"I started out thinking, 'Let's go out and make a movie about killing all these scumbags,' and then I met these people and realized they were helpless, just as much as the victims, and they had been neglected and they need help."

Quote

"Were it not for costumed vigilantism. He'd have nothing."

Jackie Earle Haley
In the movie The Watchmen

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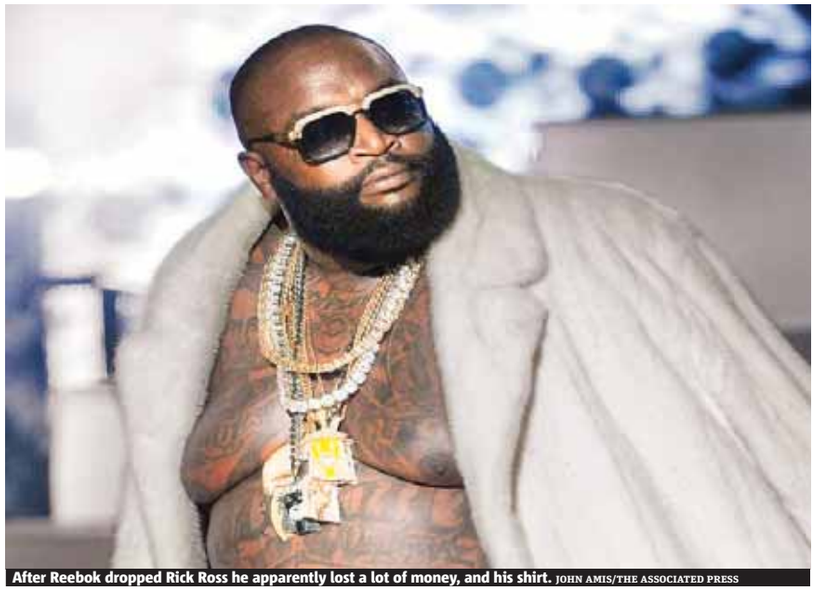

After Reebok dropped Rick Ross he apparently lost a lot of money, and his shirt. JOHN AMIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rick Ross moving on after his divorce from Reebok

Music. Rapper talks about how a business relationship went sour and about his new album

Even though Rick Ross lost his deal with Reebok this year, the Miami-based rapper continues to sport and promote the sneaker brand.

"I'm still supporting Reebok. I'm still wearing Reebok," he said in an interview last week. "It's nothing more than that. I've been wearing Reebok my whole life ... Still got nothing but love for Reebok."

The burly, husky-voiced Ross became known for his colorful and heavy lyrics, rapping about the grimy street life, money, luxury cars and women. But the Grammy-nominated performer took things too far on Rocko's song, U.O.E.N.O, where he raps about giving a woman the drug MDMA, known as Molly, and having his way with her. Petitions were issued by women's groups and rape victims.

Reebok terminated its contract with Ross in April following the heavy criticism.

But Ross says he has moved on and learned from the setback. In a recent interview, the 37-year-old talked about Reebok, his relationship with Jay-Z and his compilation album, Rick Ross Presents: Self Made 3, released Tuesday.

Terminated

"You live and you learn. I think the most unfortunate thing about the whole situation was just the fact that my lyrics offended some ladies, especially dealing with the topic of rape."

Rick Ross
Talking about losing his deal with Reebok

What did you learn from your setback with Reebok?
You live and you learn. I think the most unfortunate thing about the whole situation was just the fact that my lyrics offended some ladies, especially dealing with the topic of rape. It was interpreted as rape. I really wanted to make sure that I apologize to any woman that I offended in that way. I just wanted to make that clear. When I make music and I'm talking on records, it's like I'm painting a picture. In my mind, I'm seeing a film. I apologize.

Jay-Z has supported you since he signed you to Def Jam in 2006. How has he helped you through your maturation?
He's been a part of pretty much every project I've put together as a solo artist. He's always been there any time I've made a call. It's just an array of things I've learned from him outside of music, like handling business and money. ...I come from down South where I want the music, bass and the beats that shake the walls. Hov talked to me about performing (and) what live music brings to the table.

This is your label's third compilation album and it mainly features you, Wale and Meek Mill. Why do you think it's beneficial to release a compilation album?
When you see compilations like this, you see longevity. With us, we have people who are on top of their game. But we want to bring more artists into the fold, and give young artists an opportunity to be on the same playing field with us. That in itself speaks volumes to someone at home chasing their dreams.

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Jack Johnson goes From Here to Now to your stereo

New music. The mellow maestro makes a return to the easy going anthems that made him famous

Want to hear the sound of pure contentment? Pop on the new Jack Johnson record.

If you thought the Hawaiian folk-rock singer was ultra mellow before, wait until you hear "From Here to Now to You."

"I just write about whatever it is that's on my mind," Johnson said. "This record has been a lot of just sort of being in the family in just kind of my own little bubble. Dropping the kids off at school, and just day-to-day life, just washing the dishes, working in the garden, taking the trash out. That's not necessarily what the songs are about, but that's kind of where I was living, in that space."

It's a very comfortable space. From Here to Now to You, out Tuesday, is his sixth album and moves away from the darker, more electric-oriented music on his last two albums, which were filled with songs affected by the deaths of his father and a cousin.

Making music

"This record has been a lot of just sort of being in the family in just kind of my own little bubble."

Jack Johnson
Talking about the making of his new record

There's a gentle, rolling rhythm throughout the album's 12 tracks with a handful of love songs aimed at his wife and others examining fatherhood. There's even one called, Washing Dishes.

The songs were mostly written on an acoustic guitar on Johnson's front porch on the North Shore of Hawaii, recorded in his studio and created with his friends, including his longtime band members, Ben Harper and producer Mario Caldato Jr., who recorded Johnson's second and third albums in the mid-2000s.

The process mimicked the way he started, before his platinum debut, Brushfire Fairytales.

"Music's always been about sharing to me," Johnson said. "The first chords I ever learned were basically so we could do Bob Marley songs on the front porch, and the Beatles and Cat Stevens. So when I started writing my own, it was the same thing, about sharing. Everybody's singing together. ... It's a very nice feeling. It's spiritual, you know. So I do like it. But I can have too much of it and I can decide I don't need it for a while."

Which is what happened after he finished the tour for his last album. Johnson simply unplugged. And when he returned to the studio, he stayed that way, keeping it mostly acoustic. And if things didn't feel right, he just shut it down, setting songs aside that didn't resonate within the group or that grew difficult to tame in the studio.

"It's like we've always talked about as a band," Johnson said. "That term easy listening can have kind of a cheesy connotation for people, but we've always wanted to make our music easy on the ears. We're never really going for that kind of edgy thing that's kind of like breaking new boundaries. We've always felt part of a tradition, kind of like folk barbecue or something. We just try to go in and do the simplest form of the song we can and just make it easy on the ears." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jack Johnson is undisputed dean of self-described backyard barbecue folk. WADE PAYNE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METRO DAY AT H&M

January Jones. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

January Jones linked to Miley's separation

January Jones might not have been the reason for Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth's engagement falling apart, but she reportedly didn't help matters much.

Sources tell Us Weekly that Hemsworth had been pursuing the Mad Men star fervently in the months leading up to the split.

"January consoled him," a source says.

"January thinks Liam is so sexy."

A rep for Jones, however, says, "This is absolutely untrue."

Cyrus' rep confirmed earlier this week that the couple's engagement is officially off.

Sandra Bullock

Bullock comes to terms with divorce

It's taken more than three years, but Sandra Bullock is gaining some perspective on the disintegration of her marriage to Jesse James after his infidelity came to light.

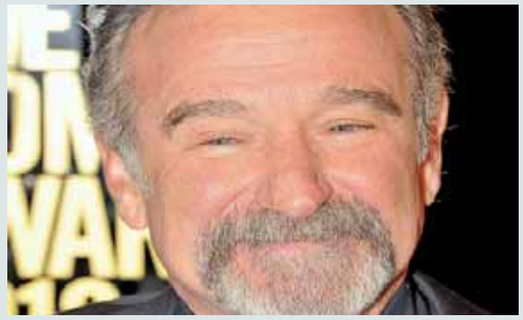
"We're all where we're supposed to be," Bullock tells Vogue.

"I am exactly where I want to be now. You can't go backward. I'm not going backward. I'm grateful that I'm here, blessed to have what I have. Nobody can be prepared for anything."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Robin Williams returns to TV because he's broke

THE WORD
Melinda Taub
scene@metronews.ca

It's a sign of the times that so many movie stars quietly return to television after a few years or decades. Most will claim it's because TV is so creatively vibrant now, or whatever.

Not Robin Williams. He'll happily admit that he signed on to his new TV series The Crazy Ones, with Sarah Michelle Gellar, for the dough, which will then go to his ex-wives.

"The idea of having a steady job is appealing," Williams told Parade Magazine. "I have two (other) choices: go on the road doing stand-up, or do small, independent movies working almost for scale (minimum union pay). The movies are good, but a lot of times they don't even have distribution. There are bills to pay. My life has downsized, in a good way. I'm selling the ranch up in Napa. I just can't afford it anymore."

Impressively candid. Most movie stars, even if their star has clearly dimmed, don't like to admit they're not high rollers anymore.

And Williams has two ex-wives, which he admits takes a big bite out of his income.

"Divorce is expensive. I used to joke they were going to call it 'all the money,' but they changed it to 'alimony.' It's ripping your heart out through your wallet."

Mark Wahlberg

Mark Wahlberg finally gets his diploma

At 42, Mark Wahlberg is finally a high school graduate, the actor — who dropped out in the ninth grade — revealed the milestone in an op-ed piece for the Huffington Post earlier this week.

"I was fortunate to find out I could attend high school online. For almost a year, I've been taking classes and studying any chance I could get — on the set, travelling for work and at home. It has been both humbling and challenging, but I'm happy to report that I am officially a high school graduate."

Twitter

@NiallOfficial
I like playing the guitar a good bit!

@WhitneyCummings
If you follow more than 200 people on Instagram you have no boundaries and your boss hates you

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Sunny days in Los Angeles

Guide. From star-style fare to more budget-friendly options, this city has it all

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

It's impossible to capture such an immense city in one story so I'll keep this focused on Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles, which has seen an incredible resurgence.

Sleeping

The Roosevelt, a Thompson property, was home to the first Academy Awards ceremony, which lasted only minutes (if only it were still the case). Marilyn Monroe often did photo shoots at the pool and used to sleep there regularly, amongst other things. There's a cool, old-fashioned, two-lane bowling alley in a funky upstairs bar, an airy, Spanish-looking lobby and fun, modern rooms. Prices in October from $299. Downtown, The Standard offers a chic rooftop bar and rooms from $225. There's also the sleek Ritz Carlton, part of the L.A. Live entertainment complex. There's a beautiful pool and bar on the 26th floor and a Wolfgang Puck restaurant. Rooms in October from $419.

Dining

Try Public at the Roosevelt in Hollywood for grilled octopus or even rabbit, served in a bright room with diamond-tufted banquettes and lots of dark wood. The burgers at the hotel burger bar, called 25 Degrees, have been voted L.A.'s best many times. They also serve up a chocolate milkshake with, um, Guinness. A personal favourite for budget types is Tommy's Burgers at Beverly and Rampart, where the gooey, napkin-destroying chiliburgers are legendary. Downtown, near Union Station, you'll find Philippe's original. The place has hardly changed in decades, right down to the pickled eggs on the counter and the wait staff. Angelenos of all colours and creeds gather to munch on roast beef French dip sandwiches (ask for a double dip for more juice) and local beers. It's just 65 cents for lemonade and 45 for coffee. Former mayor Richard Riordan runs the Original Pantry. They serve up excellent hash browns and spicy Portuguese sausage at breakfast.

The Roosevelt is a great old hotel in Hollywood that's seen its share of glamour over the years. PHOTOS JIM BYERS/METRO

The Sunset Hollywood Ranch is a wonderful spot to soak up southern California's cowboy culture.

Drinking

The Library Bar at The Roosevelt is a tiny spot with dark wood and zebra-striped chairs. Bartenders have locally grown herbs on the counter and will mix a drink to your taste. I had bourbon with lemon and rosemary that was fresh and flavourful. Just down the road, Musso and Frank is known for both steaks and perfectly dry martinis served in an old-time setting. There's a cool rooftop spot at Perch on Hill Street, complete with fireplaces. (Hey, it can get cold in L.A. at night).

Doing

Olvera Street is an old Mexican-American area with souvenir stands selling cheap, colourful guitars and great knickknacks for a few bucks. You can dine on cheap burritos or tacos and watch mariachi bands in full dress. Wander down to the Disney Concert Hall, designed by Ontario's own Frank Gehry. The nearby Angels Flight is an old-time funicular that takes you up (or down) Bunker Hill for 50 cents and is billed as the shortest railway in the world (just shy of 91 metres) The Grand Central Market has gorgeous produce and a shop selling jars of sarsaparilla, comfrey, ginger and more. Want a real change? Try a horseback ride in the hills with the folks at Sunset Hollywood Ranch), where you'll find remnants of southern California's cowboy culture and outstanding views.

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Mt. Fuji a victim of its own popularity

Under pressure. With its recent recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site, some worry bigger crowds will flock to Fuji

They trudge up well-trod cinder paths by the thousands, headlamps glowing in the dark, and then settle in, shivering, to await and cheer the sun's blazing ascent over the horizon.

Climbing Mount Fuji, Japan's most iconic landmark, is a group activity: Seldom is it climbed in solitude. The recent recognition of the 3,776-metre peak as a UNESCO World Heritage site has many here worried that it will draw still more people, adding to the wear and tear on the environment from the more than 300,000 who already climb the mountain each year.

Safety is another concern. At least seven people died and 70 were hurt climbing Fuji in 2012, and traffic jams of climbers in the pre-dawn darkness can add to the risks, says Shomei Yokouchi, governor of Yamanashi, the area to the west. The official climbing season runs July to August, and the trek — nine hours round trip in good weather — is especially treacherous other times of the year.

Mount Fuji's near perfect cone was created by an eruption thousands of years ago that buried earlier peaks, and pilgrims have been climbing to it for centuries — though women have been allowed only since 1868. It towers over the Pacific coast, ringed by lakes, national parks, temples and shrines that are also part of the World Heritage site.

The new status, granted in June, will likely help area businesses — a welcome boost given the economic decline in most of rural Japan. Local authorities are puzzling, however, over how to preserve its natural beauty while improving traffic access and other facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in visitors.

Some have suggested limiting access by raising tenfold the 1,000 yen ($10) climbing fee. But that might lead climbers to risk hypothermia by roughing it outdoors instead of staying in the 16 huts along the top of the trail, which charge up to $100 a night for cheek-by-jowl communal accommodations.

"With more foreigners visiting, we will need to think of improving the facilities," Gov. Yokouchi says, noting that the installation of composting toilets has helped. "They are cleaner than before and the smell's not so bad, but there are not enough of them."

Then there's the litter.

Each year 40,000 to 50,000 volunteers clean up garbage on the peak. Groups collected nearly 900 tons to prepare for June's World Heritage vote by UNESCO, the UN's cultural organization.

The designation is something to be proud of, says Hisataka Kurosawa, a 16-year-old high school student who recently joined a group of volunteers who climbed part of a trail and then scrounged around a car park near a visitor centre, collecting several big bags worth of oil cans, cigarette butts, car parts and candy wrappers.

"It's getting polluted and so many people are running around. I'm a bit disappointed about that," he says.

The volunteers were led by Toyohiro Watanabe, a former local government official who runs a civic group called Groundwork Mishima.

It's not just the crowds that worry him. He also frets over acid rain from sea water mixed with emissions from factories on the coast. Over invasive plant species, such as the bamboo grass that grows thick along the roadsides, obscuring some of the litter tossed from passing vehicles.

Global warming may be contributing to huge fissures on Fuji's slopes prone to erosion and landslides, he says. "Although Fuji has a power of its own, it is being influenced by global warming and other factors," Watanabe says as he looks for trouble spots in some of the most frequented areas. "It is getting weaker."

Though it last erupted in 1707, Mount Fuji remains an active volcano; Japanese seismologists watch it closely. The bigger risk, though, is from accidents. Fuji is hardly steep, but its high elevation and fickle weather can make it a hazardous climb. "There are rock falls, and sometimes people are unable to get out of the way," Yokouchi, the Yamanashi governor, says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of hikers cheer from the summit of Mount Fuji in Japan as the sun rises. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Costs of conservation

UNESCO has long acknowledged the risks to World Heritage sites, both from natural disasters and unsustainable levels of tourism. Even for a country as wealthy as Japan, tight budgets mean fewer resources available to support conservation.

Hikers are packed into sleeping rows at a rest station before the summit of Mount Fuji.

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ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
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Budget travelers rejoice! Europe on $50 a day is still possible.

Accommodation
Hostels are no longer just for the young. If you are game, you can expect a shared bathroom and a basic dormitory style bedroom with anywhere from six to 20 other guests slumbering beside you. The prices vary between Eastern and Western Europe but they almost always include free breakfast and sometimes a free walking tour or bike rental. For $10 you can buy a membership gold card forhostelworld.com, which allows you to save on the $2 service fee every time you book.

Camping is another way to cut down the budget. Scandinavia is one of the most expensive areas on the continent to travel but there is actually a law in Norway and Sweden that allows you to camp for free in any public place.

Food and drink
Don't be afraid of street food. It is a unique culinary experience; cheap and delicious. The sausages you can buy in Germany and the Czech Republic are way better than a cheap restaurant experience. Consider shopping for your own groceries. Many hostels offer access to a kitchenette if you want to cook yourself a hot meal or have a picnic. If you are anxious for a restaurant meal, take the time to source out three different options. Force yourself to always compare prices before making a final choice.

Sites and attractions
Your first stop should always be the local tourist office. Look for a list of free attractions and don't forget to grab a map. The back page is often full of discount coupons to local must-sees. Downloading free audio tours are another great way to learn about the destination. Search for alternatives to the expensive attractions. For example, in Barcelona skip the cable car and hike up to Parc Guell. You will share the same incredible view with people who just paid 20 euros for it.

Camping is one way to keep under budget when travelling through Europe. KIT CLOUTIER/METRO

Transportation
Travel on regional commuter trains and avoid the expresses. It may take longer but the savings are significant. For longer trips don't buy a Eurail pass. It is too restrictive and limiting and you also end up paying a reservation fee for every booking. A good alternative is the Eurostar bus company. Their pass covers a larger territory, offers flexible booking options and is cheaper.

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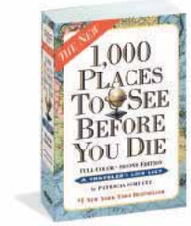

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Road-trip your way through North Carolina and visit the filming locations of some of your favourite movies and TV shows, from The Hunger Games to Homeland, Sleepy Hollow, Banshee, Revolution and TIFF's You Are Here.

Take in the fall colours around Brevard, set in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. TRACY TURPEN/TRANSYLVANIA TOURISM

Raleigh

Start your road trip in Raleigh (tip: it's easy to find free parking across the state). Stroll through downtown and keep your eyes peeled for the N.C. Supreme Court and State Capitol buildings, which you might recognize from the hit TV series Homeland (the show, set in Washington, D.C., is actually filmed in North Carolina).

Gorge on the best fried chicken in town (you're in the South, after all) at Beasley's Chicken + Honey, created by James Beard-nominee Ashley Christensen. And head over to Mitch's Tavern for a pint. If it looks familiar, you might recognize it from the bar fight scene in Bull Durham — a classic flick celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Durham

Durham is a quick drive from Raleigh, and both movie and sports fans shouldn't miss the Historic Durham Athletic Park, where much of the Bull Durham action was shot.

Catch Durham's chilled-out vibe in the ultra-hip American Tobacco Historic District — factories that once supported America's tobacco industry now house a collection of shops, restaurants and bars.

Tyler's Taproom is a must, with 60 craft and specialty import beers on tap including a selection from Fullsteam Brewery, a "plow to pint" brewery that uses local produce — such as sweet potatoes, figs and basil — to make its beers.

Indulge yourself at Four Square Restaurant set in a charming Victorian house; chef Shane Ingram relies heavily on local farmers and changes the menu bi-monthly to reflect the freshest seasonal products.

Where to stay: The King's Daughters Inn combines the intimacy of a B&B with the luxurious touches of a high-end hotel, from gourmet breakfasts (think: eggnog pancakes), evening wine and scotch, and a turndown service that includes artisan chocolates and port.

Charlotte

A three-hour drive will take you to Charlotte — and if you're a fan of Homeland, this is where the action's at (see sidebar).

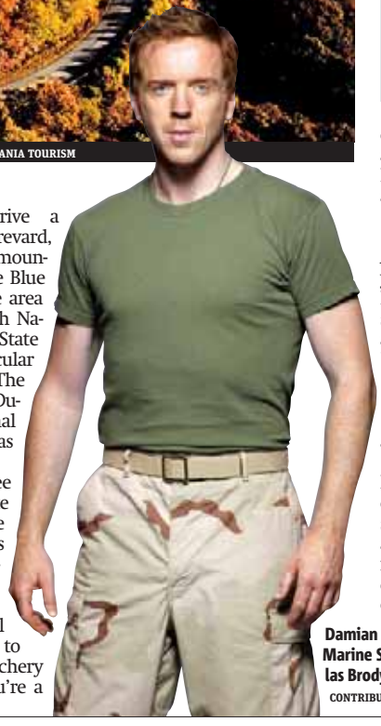
But there's more than movie action. Get active at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, which offers up 22 kilometres of mountain-biking and hiking trails, as well as a climbing centre, 335-metre zipline, flat-water kayaking and whitewater rafting on a multiple-channel man-made river with class III-IV rapids (an AllSport Pass is $54 for adults).

Or, learn about the city's history while stuffing yourself with the city's best cornbread and fried chicken on a "Taste & Glide" segway tour with Charlotte NC Tours.

Brevard

From Charlotte, drive a couple of hours to Brevard, the ultimate cool in mountain towns. Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the area is home to the Pisgah National Forest, Gorges State Park and, of particular interest to fans of The Hunger Games, the DuPont State Recreational Forest (also known as the "arena").

The best way to see where your favourite scenes were shot (like when Katniss finds Peeta lying in camouflage) is on a Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tour — where you'll also get a chance to test your skills at archery and sling shot. If you're a cyclist, hiker, climber or kayaker, Brevard is a little slice of heaven. And be sure to take in a waterfall … or 200.



Damian Lewis stars as Marine Sergeant Nicholas Brody in Homeland. CONTRIBUTED

Asheville

A half an hour's drive will take you to retro-urban Asheville, known for its farm-to-table cuisine, cutting-edge music scene and thriving arts community. You won't find big-box retailers here — it's all about independent, eclectic boutiques, selling local art, funky jewelry and artisan chocolate.

Dinner at The Market Place Restaurant is a must, where chef and co-owner William Dissen regularly updates his menu according to what's available from local farmers, ranchers, cheese-makers and winegrowers, combining a reverence for Appalachian culinary heritage with worldly traditions.

Get your Homeland fix

Visit these Homeland filming locations in Charlotte:

- Sip a cocktail at the Lobby Bar in the swish Ritz-Carlton, where Carrie gets her first inclination that Brody might indeed be hiding something.
- Or smoke a pre-Castro Cuban cigar at Cutter's Cigar Bar & Lounge at the Marriott City Center — complete with mother of pearl-inlaid pool table and mahogany wood bar — where Carrie meets up with Brody.
- And head to Ed's Tavern for a drink, which you may recognize as the bar where Brody meets up with his veteran buddies.

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Hearty beef chili gets so boring and this version is faster, lighter and contains more delicate flavours.

Buy ground chicken on sale in a large pack and break it down into smaller, useable packages.

Wrap tightly to freeze and it will last you a year. Better yet, double or quadruple this recipe and freeze the cooked chili and save yourself both time and money.

1. Bring chicken stock to boil in a large skillet.

2. Add all ingredients except beans; cover and simmer to blend flavours, about 15 minutes.

3. Add kidney beans, undrained; simmer until heated through, about 5 minutes.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup chicken stock ($0.40)
- 1, medium onion, chopped ($0.88)
- 1 large clove garlic, minced ($0.05)
- 1/2 lb ground chicken ($3)
- 1/4 cup drained canned green chilies, coarsely chopped ($1.29)
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano ($0.03)
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin ($0.05)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander ($0.07)
- pinch ground cloves ($0.01)
- pinch tsp cayenne pepper ($0.01)
- 16 oz white kidney beans (cannellini beans) ($1.29)

Total: 7.08/ per serving: $1.77

Five-Spice White Chili

This recipe serves four. LIZ BEDDALL OF LIZBEDDALL.COM

Texturally pleasing Kasha & Sweet Potato Salad

More than satisfying, as well as texturally pleasing to the palate, this gluten and dairy-free, wholesome salad combines kasha with nutrient dense avocados and sweet potato.

It can be made up to two days before serving, making it ideal for those who like to plan ahead for meals.

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) vegetable broth
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground cumin
- 1 cup (250 ml) kasha or buckwheat groats
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) cubes
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) red wine vinegar
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp (5 ml) paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- half sweet red pepper
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped fresh parsley or cilantro
- 2 firm-ripe avocados from Mexico, halved, pitted, peeled and diced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) toasted pepitas or sunflower seeds

This recipe serves six to eight. COURTESY MISSAVACADO.CA

1. In saucepan, bring broth, garlic and cumin to boil over high heat. Stir in kasha; reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until no liquid remains and kasha is tender, 15 mins. Scrape into bowl and let cool.

2. In separate saucepan of boiling salted water, cook sweet potato just until tender, about 5 minutes. Drain; let cool.

3. In bowl, whisk vinegar, oil, mustard, paprika, salt and pepper; add to kasha, along with green onions, celery, pepper and parsley; toss to coat. Fold in potatoes, avocados and pepitas.

4. Serve right away, or cover and refrigerate for up to 2 days (if making ahead of time, add avocado and pepitas just before serving). **MISSAVACADO.CA**

Drink of the Week

Passionate Sangria

As summer comes to an end, sip your way into fall with this Passionate Sangria. It's not only tasty but also easy to make.

- 1 bottle (750 ml) Solaz Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2 oz Duff Gordon brandy
- 2 oz Cinzano sweet red vermouth
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup passion fruit juice
- Slices of oranges, lemons and limes (seeds removed)

Add all ingredients into a pitcher and gently stir. Refrigerate for 4-10 hours. Remove from refrigerator, add ice and stir gently before serving.

RECIPE & PHOTOS COURTESY OSBORNE SOLAZ

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The definition of 'engineer' is a broad one, but the perks of the profession are clear and plentiful

MEGHAN GREAVES
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We know that the road to becoming an engineer can be a long one for students and new grads. From trying to keep your grades up, to getting involved in the engineering community, to somewhat maintaining a social life, it can be hard to see the very bright light at the end of the tunnel.

To keep you on the right path, we compiled a list of the greatest things about a career as an engineer.

From having some of the highest entry-level salaries, to being able to work anywhere in the world, aspiring engineers have plenty of job perks to look forward to after a gruelling undergrad.

As an engineer you can be confident you'll be working in an environment with the highest professional and legal standards. ISTOCK IMAGES

There are plenty of options

There are tons of different sectors in the engineering industry, which gives students a lot of variety when choosing their career paths. Some of your options include mechanical, software, biomedical, chemical, environmental, and electrical engineering. With so many choices, it's almost certain that you'll find a sector that's just right for you.

Growth opportunities

Engineers often times receive extraordinary training, mentoring, and on-boarding to ensure that they get started on the right foot. With this foundation, it's more likely that newly hired engineers will have the skills and resources needed to move up the ladder. Engineering companies will invest this type of effort into new graduates as they want to see them be successful, specifically within the company.

Location, location, location

Engineers can work everywhere and are needed everywhere! Just take Beverly Bradley's story for example. She has been able to start her engineering career in Gambia building a medical oxygen source for third world countries! Just about everywhere you look in the world there is a need and opportunity for engineers to be successful — they're definitely not limited to one location.

Competitive salary

The salary that comes with a career in engineering is a definite plus! To become an Engineer it takes a high level of education, skill, and dedication, so it makes sense that an Engineer's salary reflects these investments. According to our 2012 engineering salary guide, new grads entering the industry are amongst some of the highest paid career hatchers — and it only goes up!

In demand

With a large amount of retirees exiting the workforce in the near future and industry expansion, there's no shortage of engineering jobs. This doesn't mean that the industry isn't competitive, it means that if you put a solid

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- How did so many interpretations of the Bible develop?
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Beyond job perks, one of the greatest things about being an engineer is the innovative projects you will have the opportunity to be part of. Engineers have built historic innovations and achieved monumental feats that just can't be described in a job description.

So, we decided to compile a list of some of the greatest engineering projects of all time. Read on to get to get that extra push toward the profession.

The Internet

Technology engineers worked for decades to turn the Internet into what it is today.

- From its initial launch as a research, military and science tool in the 1950s, the Internet has grown to become a critical tool for everyday work and life. Future software and technology engineers will undoubtedly rely on this valuable invention throughout their careers!

Transcontinental Railroad

Before the ground-breaking construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, it would take on average five to six months of dangerous and expensive travel to cross the country! It took six years to complete the project, which was mostly done by hand. Engineering the railroad led to more money, jobs, immigrants, and expansion, which changed the way the nation functioned forever.

The Hoover Dam

The Hoover Dam was initially thought to be an impossible feat. But with the hard work and dedication of 200 engineers, the Hoover Dam was built and turned the flood-prone Colorado River into a source of economic development. To ensure the project was successful, engineers took into consideration weather, seismic activity, thermal movements, vehicle power, and structural bearings. The dam was fully completed by 1935, and is expected to last another 100 years!

Health technologies

Until the 20th century, medical diagnoses were often based on doctor's intuition rather than concrete evidence. Throughout the 1900s, medical engineering achievements aimed to change this. From the first electrocardiograph machine in 1903, to the creation of the pacemaker in 1930, medical engineers have played a vital role in developing live-saving health technologies.

Engineers collaborated to create the CN Tower to withstand earthquakes, lightning strikes, and thermal movements. Aspiring civil engineers will similarly need to draft building plans with Earth's movements and weather in mind. ISTOCK

The moon landing

The first moon landing remains one of the most extraordinary engineering feats of all time. Considering that in 1969, technology was in a huge transitional phase, it's crazy to think that an achievement such as this was accomplished during a time of punch cards and gigantic computers!

Panama Canal, Panama

This 77 kilometre waterway connects the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean and to this day plays a vital role in world shipping. Over 15,000 ships a year pass through the canal to deliver goods between coasts. The canal took over 10 years to complete with the dedication and sacrifice of thousands of engineers and labourers. This project is an excellent example of how engineering is used to connect the world.

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Super Bowl

Premium tickets double in price

Super Bowl fans can prepare to pay double for the best seats.

The NFL expects the most expensive tickets for its championship game will be about $2,600 each for 9,000 premium seats for the Feb. 2 game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

That's more than twice the $1,250 cost for similar tickets at last season's Super Bowl in New Orleans.

The next tier of seats is expected to go for $1,500 compared to $950 in New Orleans. About 40 per cent of general admission seats will be under $1,000, McCarthy said.

The capacity of MetLife Stadium is 82,000, but it will be trimmed by about 5,000 seats to make room for media, cameras and security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barry Bonds

Home-run king won't be running from home

Barry Bonds has been ordered to meet with U.S. Probation Department officials to discuss terms of his 30-day house arrest.

Bonds worked out the details of his sentence after he lost his appeal of his felony obstruction of justice conviction. The order was made public Tuesday.

A jury convicted Bonds in 2011 and he was sentenced to home confinement, two years of probation and a $4,000 fine.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Leafs' David Clarkson tussles with Nicklas Grossmann of the Flyers during pre-season action at Air Canada Centre on Monday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clarkson unruffled in pressure cooker

NHL. Big off-season signing insists he won't buckle under great expectations

Seven years and $36.75 million US set the price of expectations for David Clarkson.

When Clarkson signed with the Maple Leafs on the first day of free agency, he accepted the scrutiny that comes with that term and substantial price tag in arguably the NHL's toughest market. The high standard of success he'll be held to this season and in the coming years doesn't bother him.

"I really don't think about it, to be honest with you," Clarkson said. "I've played the same way my whole life. I've played that style of hockey and it's gotten me to where I am. All I'm going to do is go out every night, give everything I can. And am I going to be perfect? No, I'm going to make mistakes. But I'm going to play that same style of hockey that got me here."

That's the right mind-set for Clarkson, a one-time 30-goal scorer for the New Jersey Devils who will be counted on to score close to that in Toronto. But Philadelphia Flyers left-winger Scott Hartnell has been there, done that with a similar salary bump after a trade from the Nashville Predators and figures it will be an adjustment for Clarkson.

Quoted

"You guys don't bug me, not at all."

Leafs forward David Clarkson is confident he'll be able to deflect the media's attention.

"It definitely is a little added pressure, I think," Hartnell said Monday. "And going to Philadelphia, for myself, was obviously a way bigger market than Nashville was. You can say the same for Clarkson, going from the Devils where there's not much media that I've noticed, and coming to Toronto where you take a sip of a beer and (it's reported like) you're drunk the night before the game."

Clarkson has 97 goals and 73 assists in 426 NHL games and is hardly an offensive superstar. Carlyle pointed to some "intangibles" Clarkson brings beyond scoring.

"He's a big body in front of the net," Hartnell said. "He scored lots of goals against us, just being there causing havoc in front. He's got a quick release, a guy that can hit and fight." THE CANADIAN PRESS

No Bones about the favourite in title bout

Jon Jones GETTY IMAGES FILE

He has never been knocked down or taken down in his UFC career. His one loss was in reality a win, with his injured opponent needing surgery afterwards.

Light-heavyweight champion Jon (Bones) Jones became the UFC's youngest-ever champion in March 2011 when, at 23 years eight months, he defeated Mauricio (Shogun) Rua at UFC 128.

Now 26, Jones is the undisputed pound-for-pound king of mixed martial arts. And the American continues to rewrite the record book.

Jones (18-1) has lost just one round in his 13-fight UFC career. And the 205-pounder made former champion Lyoto (The Dragon) Machida pay for that first round at UFC 140 in Toronto, locking on a standing guillotine choke in the second round before dropping the unconscious Brazilian onto the canvas with a thud.

On Saturday, Sweden's Alexander (The Mauler) Gustafsson becomes the latest to attempt to derail Jones when the two face off at UFC 165 at Air Canada Centre. It will be Jones' third championship fight in Toronto.

At six foot five, Gustafsson (15-1) is a rare fighter who is taller than the 6-4 Jones.

A perhaps over-enthusiastic UFC TV promo calls the Swede "the toughest test of (Jones') career." The bookies aren't buying it, installing Jones as anything from a 7-1 to 12-1 favourite.

Jones is tied for most consecutive title defences (five) and most finishes (nine) in UFC light-heavyweight history. He already holds the record for most submissions (five) by a light-heavyweight.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Setting it straight

The last time MMA fans saw Jon (Bones) Jones in the cage, the UFC light-heavyweight champion's left big toe looked as if it had been screwed on in the wrong direction following a TKO win in April over Chael Sonnen at UFC 159.

- Jones, who consulted a number of doctors, did not need surgery on the dislocated toe. But he still faced three to four months before it was fully healed.

4 SPORTS

Dickey, Jays deal Yankees their fourth straight loss

The Blue Jays' Anthony Gose, left, Colby Rasmus and Jose Reyes celebrate their win over the Yankees in Toronto on Tuesday. FRANK GUNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Toronto looks to thwart New York's path to playoffs in first of three-game series

On Tuesday

Blue Jays	Yankees
2	0

Colby Rasmus and Rajai Davis homered and R.A. Dickey struck out eight in seven shutout innings as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the New York Yankees 2-0 on Tuesday.

Rasmus hit his 21st homer of the season — and third in three games since returning from the disabled list — in the fourth inning against left-hander Andy Pettitte. Davis hit his sixth of the season against right-hander Shawn Kelley in the seventh.

The loss in the opener of a three-game series was the fourth in a row for the Yankees (79-72), who entered Tuesday 2 1/2 games out of an American League wild-card spot.

The Blue Jays (69-81) have won only twice in their first seven games of a nine-game homestand.

Dickey (13-12), meanwhile, held the Yankees to four hits and two walks to win his fourth consecutive decision. Sergio Santos took over from the knuckleballer in the eighth. Casey Janssen pitched the ninth for his 31st save of the season.

Pettitte (10-10) lost for the first time since Aug. 5 as he allowed six hits, two walks and one run while striking out five in 6 2/3 innings. He had three wins and four no-decisions in his previous seven starts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Injuries. Blue Jays slugger Encarnacion, pitcher Cecil done for the season

Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Edwin Encarnacion is scheduled to undergo wrist surgery this week and will miss the final two weeks of the regular season.

The all-star slugger will have cartilage damage repaired in his left wrist.

"They said it's a simple procedure to clean it out," manager John Gibbons said before Tuesday's home game against the New York Yankees. "He's been dealing with it all year and just got to the point where his bat launch (letting go of the bat on his swing) became too frequent. You could tell he was battling it."

Gibbons said that left-handed reliever Brett Cecil would also go on the disabled list with a sore elbow. Cecil will have an MRI exam this week.

"He's had some elbow discomfort for a little over a month," Gibbons said. "He hadn't been pitching much. He'll get an MRI in the next few days. They don't think (it is serious) but he will get it checked out."

Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion will undergo wrist surgery this week. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Encarnacion finishes the season with 36 homers, 104 runs batted in, a .272 batting average and an on-base percentage of .370.

"He's had it on and off all year," Gibbons said. "That was the plan anyway, that he was going to have to get it cleaned up but it just got to the point now where he (needed surgery)." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The 2014 GMC Sierra

Review. From top to bottom it's as new as it gets, right down to three brand new engines

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 GMC Sierra

- **Type.** Two- /four-door, rear-/four-wheel-drive full-size pickup
- **Engines (hp).** 4.3-litre OHV V6 (285); 5.3-litre OHV V8 (355); 6.2-litre OHV V8 (420)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (ind. destination)** $27,800

GMC vs Chevy

Some minor sheetmetal differences exist between the Chevy and the GMC, but that's about it. Even the interiors of the two pickups share the same basic dash, control panel and available touch-screen communications centre that are a masterstroke of efficient legibility.

Fuel Economy

Mated to a standard six-speed automatic transmission, fuel consumption is reduced to 11.9 l/100 km in the city and 8.4 om the highway (previously 13.7/9.1). V8 choices consist of a new 5.3-litre unit with 355 horses and 383 pound-feet, up from 315/335, and a 6.2-litre piece rated at 420/450 pound-feet. That compares to the previous 6.2's 403/417 rating. The new engine is based on the V8 in the new 2014 Corvette. The 5.3 is rated at 13.0/8.7 l/100 km, but the 6.2's fuel numbers have yet to be divulged, although GMC says it will have a 5,450-kilogram tow rating.

With nearly endless combinations of powertrains, features and cab choices, you would be hard-pressed to find two identical pickup trucks on the road.

That's certainly the case with General Motors' light-duty cousins — the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra — although both share the same basic structure and running gear. For 2014, each continues with its own style and attitude, although the "attitude" part is hard to define, exactly.

While Chevrolet positions the Silverado as a kind of middle-ground pickup for both work and play, in the Sierra's case those virtues are distinctly separated. More basic GMC models accentuate the "Professional Grade" tag and the pitch is directed at buyers who rely on their pickups to earn a living. At the opposite end of the scale is the Sierra Denali sub-brand that places a much higher value on coddling content.

In either case, the Sierra's primary identification point can be spotted in your rear-view mirror. The entire front end, including grille, headlights, bumper and in-your-face GMC logo, are more massive than before and in total make a bolder statement than the Silverado does. Of course as you scale the trim-level ladder the appointments become more luxurious and the cabin resembles something approaching a high-end limo, especially in the four-door crew-cab models. Limo-quiet cabins have also been the focus of GMC's designers. Improvements in aerodynamics, insulation and weather sealing help shut out intrusive noises.

Note that for 2014 the rear doors of the double cab (which has smaller doors than the crew cab) are now front-hinged just like the crew cab's doors, as opposed to being rear hinged, to provide easier access to the back seat. Just as a greater use of aluminum in fabricating various body panels and suspension parts has kept the Sierra's weight in check, the V6 and V8 engines also benefit.

All use aluminum cylinder blocks and incorporate direct injection, whereby fuel is force-fed into the cylinders under high pressure. That allows the fuel load to be tailored for very specific use. There's also continuously variable valve timing for improved low- and high-speed performance, while half the cylinders in V8 engines will automatically shut down in steady-state cruise conditions to save fuel. The V6 engine also runs on four cylinders in such situations.

The Volt's colourful getaway

Autoknow. It might be electric but it's a real car on real roads

GARRY SOWERBY
wheelbasemedia.com

There's an interesting irony when it comes to things that are "high tech." It's that they're only high tech for a brief time. Soon, they become run-of-the mill, or are surpassed as the competition attempts the dreaded "leap frog" that turns the latest and greatest into yesterday's news.

In this respect, Chevrolet's biggest gamble wasn't building the Volt electric car, it was the potential of being dramatically upstaged. Since the Volt came to market for the 2011 model year, that hasn't happened, but there are all sorts of plug-in hybrids coming on stream that mesh varying forms of gas and electric power in an attempt to nab buyers who have either become entirely fed up with gas prices, or those who want to make a smaller dent in the environment when it comes to emissions.

A recent $5,100 price cut in Canada to about $38,500 (including destination charges) reflects the competitive nature of this segment and recognizes that efficient non-electric vehicles are entering the market for substantially less money. With some provincial tax credits knocking as much as $8,000 more off the price, the Volt is more tempting. But how does it work? And how does it work in real driving situations?

To find out, I treated my wife, Lisa Calvi, to an early-fall road trip in New England, where back roads and small towns are alive with crisp mornings and the onset of splendid fall foliage.

The meandering route would run about 720 kilometres from Burlington, Vt., to Bar Harbor, Me. There were a few kilometres of Interstate, but the Volt would spend most of its time on secondary roads.

The basis of the car's mobility is a 149-horse electric motor. The large T-shaped battery below the floor provides enough juice to get the stylish four-passenger sedan about 40 real-world kilometres, maximum, at which point an onboard 1.4-litre gasoline engine fires up to generate the electricity to extend the range another 400 kilometres or so. Now, I don't really know about the term "range extending" since most vehicles can outdo this Chevy for overall distance on a tank of gas, but in the context of other electric cars on the market with limited range, such as the Nissan Leaf, I guess the term "range extending" will do.

The Volt is the only electric on the market in its price range that will cover 720 kilometres in two days. And there's no "range anxiety." Just gas up if you can't find a wall plug.

Although the gas engine adds significant weight and cost to the car, this is somewhat offset by the elimination of that nasty side effect typical of electric vehicles: range anxiety. No pesky feelings in the pit of your stomach that you are running out of propulsion and the only way to get it back is to find a place to plug in and wait hours until the battery is recharged.

Fact is the Volt's main competitor, the Leaf, would never be able to take a 720-kilometre two-day road trip because it would require about three full days of charging using a household wall plug to cover the distance. It's more of a city car.

Lisa and I fly into Burlington, Vt., and pick up the Crystal Red Volt. It's fully charged and we drive to Topnotch Resort in Stowe, Vt., on electric power. It's peppy, quiet, comfortable and handles surprisingly well on the back roads.

That night, after plugging into a 110-volt outlet in the parking lot, we discuss our options over dinner. We have never driven to the top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington, although I've seen those 'This car climbed Mount Washington" bumper stickers for decades. It's the highest peak in the U.S. northeast at about 2,000 metres in elevation.

The next morning we pass on the many activities available at the cozy Topnotch Resort. So much for the horseback riding, hikes, the corn maze or getting pampered at the resort's full service spa.

We're off, and half way to our overnight destination I realize the Volt's gas-powered generator has taken over and I didn't even notice. Turn down the prerequisite road-trip companion XM Radio and I can hear — and feel — the engine buzz up at times. It revs according to power demand, sometimes fast and sometimes slowly.

We eventually make our way to Whitefield to check into the Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa, just northwest of Mount Washington. This spectacularly massive hotel built in 1865 is just the kind of place to check into on a road trip. Powered by wind, the grand hotel was revived a dozen years ago after sitting vacant for 16 years. And there's an axe-throwing field in the front yard, which we try out. Lisa appears to have an untapped talent, so I'm on my guard the rest of the night.

The next day, we need to drive about 400 kilometres to get to Bar Harbor on the Atlantic Ocean. Who cares if we can only get half way up Mount Washington because of freezing rain and icy roads. Despite all the kilometres I've driven in my life setting around-the-world records, the Volt has taught this old road warrior a few new tricks.

Chevy's answer to the Little Black Dress of vehicles, the Volt, makes it possible to be environmentally conscious, cut down on fossil-fuel consumption and not need a second car for extended range when the call of the open road needs answering. It really is a real car.

Lisa frighteningly demonstrates her skill with the axe in Whitefield.

Versus the Leaf

"Fact is the Volt's main competitor, the Leaf, would never be able to take a 720-kilometre two-day road trip because it would require about three full days of charging using a household wall plug to cover the distance. It's more of a city car."

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The new vehicle must be delivered or factory-ordered during the Program Period from your participating Ford Dealer. Employee Pricing is not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP, Daily Rental Allowance and AX/Z/D/F-Plan programs. *Until September 30, 2013, purchase a new 2013 Ford Focus S/Escape S/ F-150 STX SuperCab 4x2/ F-150 SuperCrew Platinum 4x4 5.0L (or $[$16,779/$22,204/$23,298/$48,080] after total Ford Employee Price adjustment of [$870/$995/$9,051/$14,739]) is deducted. Total Ford Employee Price adjustment is a combination of Employee Price Adjustment of [$620/$995/$2,301/$7,489] and delivery allowance of [$250/$0/$6,750/$7,250]. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total Ford Employee Price adjustment has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA (if financed or leased) but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. **Until September 30, 2013, receive 1.99% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Focus S and 4.99% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Escape S models for up to 84 months. Purchase financing offered through Ford Credit. Monthly payment is [$99/$145/$399] bi-weekly/monthly for [84/84/36] months with [$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$24/$34] for every $1,000 financed. Total obligation is [$8,316/$12,180/$14,364]. Cost of borrowing is [$1,178/$4,116] or APR of [1.99%/4.99%] and total to be repaid is [$18,018/$26,390]. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for PPSA, registration, security deposit, NSF fees where applicable, excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions may affect qualification. Offers may change or end without notice. See dealer for complete details. ***Until September 30, 2013, lease a new 2013 F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 model for up to 36 months and get 2.99% APR on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease the above model with a value of $30,910 at 2.99% APR for up to 36 months with [$350] down or equivalent trade in, monthly payment is [$398], total lease obligation is [$14,678], optional buyout is [$18,438]. Cost of leasing is [$2,196]. Offer includes $11,939 in Total Price Adjustments. Total Ford Employee Price adjustment is a combination of Employee Price adjustment of [$4,689] and delivery allowance of [$7,250]. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing price after any price adjustment is deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for PPSA, registration, security deposit, NSF fees where applicable, excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions may affect qualification. Offers may change or end without notice. See dealer for complete details. ‡Based on Ford Canada's 2012 full-line pickup segment sales. ‡‡Based on Costco members receiving $1,000 off the purchase or lease of most new 2013/2014 Ford vehicles (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, Medium Truck and Lincoln) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The Eligible Vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one (1) offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Offer is not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 Offer is deducted. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡ T-Series is the best-selling pickup truck in Canada for 47 years in a row based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report, December 2012. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, Channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Oh those eccentric British types ...

Autopilot. British Car Day attracted some interesting characters and cars, but none more so than Canada's own half-woman, half-car Venessa Koch

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Venessa Koch crouched in DeLorean mode. ALL IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

Before the DeLorean fan and mascot springs into robot mode.

This past Sunday marked the 30th anniversary of British Car Day. Held every third Sunday in September at Ontario's Bronte Creek Provincial Park, British Car Day has been for some time now the largest single day gathering of British vehicular diversity in North America — about 1,000 vehicles and their servants manage to make the scene every year.

In other words, it's the dog's bollocks, brilliant, jolly good, etc., and I was chuffed to bits to make it out again, though a last minute family matter almost threw a spanner into the works. Okay that's bloody it for the British slang; now on to a couple of the cool vehicles that caught my eye this year…

Venessa Koch is not technically a car, British or otherwise, but she probably had her picture taken more than anything else on the field this year. She is not technically a Transformer either, but she sure looked like one. For her culminating thesis for her Theatre Production degree from Ryerson University she created a costume that starts out as a DeLorean automobile and ends up like a robot. It is awesome. The school gave her an A-plus, and the Ontario DeLorean Owners' Club awarded her Associate Member status. "I'm also their official mascot," said Koch, who was parked alongside other DeLoreans in the DeLorean row, and performed many "transformations" during the day. Like a lot of DeLorean enthusiasts, she got the bug from the time-traveling DeLorean in the film, Back to the Future. "I've been in love with that car since I was 10." It took her about eight months to make the DeLorean transformer costume. It wasn't easy. She noted that unlike Optimus Prime, she actually has a spine that can't be folded several times.

The DeLorean contingent seemed to be having the most fun. They seemed younger than the Jag and Rolls crowds, for example, and their cars were the only ones there with faux Flux Capacitors. DeLoreans were made for only two years (1981 and 1982), in a plant located in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Only slightly larger than Venessa Koch was the Berkley SE328, owned by William Patterson of East Aurora, New York. At just a smidgen over three metres long, the front-drive Berkeley is the world's smallest production sports car. Patterson's SE328 model is fitted with a 328-cc two-stroke motorcycle engine, good for 18 horsepower. Patterson is over six feet tall, and when I asked him to get behind the wheel for a photo, he said sure, and then took about a minute to complete the manoeuvre. "You don't jump in and out of this thing on whim," said Patterson, "it's a commitment." A commitment to having a bit of fun, I thought later, when he took off for the day, in a cloud of two-stroke smoke and a cacophony of mechanical noises.

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≠Finance offers are now available on new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S MT (B5RG54 AA 00), manual transmission/2013 Sentra 1.8 S (C4LG53 AA 00), manual transmission. Selling Price is $13,699/$15,949 financed at 0.9%/0% AP R equals 182 bi-weekly/182 bi-weekly payments of $78/$88 for an 84/84 month term. $0/$0 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $441.36/$0 for a total obligation of $14,140/$15,949. $500/$1,250 NC F Finance Cash included in advertised price, applicable only on 2013 Sentra (C4LG53 AA 00/C4LG53 BK00)/Versa Note 1.6 S MT (B5RG54 AA 00/B5RG14 AE00) on finance purchases through subvented loan contracts only through Nissan Canada Finance. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. ‡$4,000 cash discount is valid on the new 2013 Nissan Altima Sedan 2.5 (T4LG13 AA 00/AA 10) and 2013 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG13 AA00/AA10)/$13,000 cash discount is valid on all 2013 Titan models except the Titan 4X2 King Cab S SWB (1KAG 73 AA 00) when registered and delivered between September 4th, 2013 and September 30th, 2013. The cash discount is only available on the cash purchase, and will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease or finance rates. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. D$13,699/$21,527/$15,949 Selling price for a new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S MT (B5RG54 AA 00), manual transmission/2013 Altima Sedan 2.5 (T4LG13 AA 00), CVT transmission/2013 Sentra 1.8 S (C4LG53 AA 00), manual transmission. $500/$1,250 NC F Finance Cash included in advertised price, applicable only on 2013 Sentra (C4LG53 AA 00/C4LG53 BK00)/Versa Note 1.6 S MT (B5RG54 AA 00/B5RG14 AE00) on finance purchases through subvented loan contracts only through Nissan Canada Finance. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. ΔModels shown $20,719/$24,427/$21,649 Selling Price for a new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S SL (B5TG14 NA 00), Xtronic CVT® transmission/2013 Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG13 AA 00), CVT transmission/2013 Sentra 1.8 SR (C4RG13 RT00), CVT transmission. ≠ΔDFreight and PDE charges ($1,567/$1,695/$1,567), air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, certain fees (ON : $5 OM VIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Finance and lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between September 4, 2013 and September 30, 2013. ∞Fuel economy from competitive intermediate/compact 2013 internal combustion engine models sourced from Autodata on 13-12-2012. Hybrids and diesels excluded. 2013 Sentra/Altima fuel economy tested by Nissan Motor Company Limited. Sentra: CVT transmission (4.9L/100 KM HWY/6.6L/100 KM CI TY/5.8L/100 KM COM BIN ED), manual transmission (5.5L/100 KM HWY/7.5L/100 KM CI TY/6.6L/100 KM COM BIN ED), CVT model shown. Altima: 2.5L engine (7.4L/100 KM CI TY/5.0L/100 KM HWY), 3.5L (9.3L/100 KM CI TY/6.4L/100 KM HWY). 3.5L shown. Actual mileage will vary with driving conditions. Use for comparison purposes only. †Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) Entry Level Segmentation. MY14 Versa Note v. MY13/14 competitors. Offers subject to change, continuation or cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. ©1998-2013 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc. a division of Nissan Canada Inc.

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HONDA

Limited time lease and finance offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), on approved credit. Selling prices and payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,495 to $1,640 depending on 2013 model and $1,695 on advertised 2014 models), EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100 except Civic and Fit DX models), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration. [Ω]Representative bi-weekly lease example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) on a 60 month term with 130 bi-weekly payments at 1.99% lease APR. Bi-weekly payment is $87.40 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first bi-weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,362.23. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. [†]Representative bi-weekly finance example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) on an 84 month term with 182 bi-weekly payments at 1.99% APR [including $1,600 Finance incentive and $431 individual dealer contribution deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes]. Incentives apply only to Finance contracts through HFS, and can be combined with subvented rates of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. Complete price of $16,970. Cost of borrowing is $1,077.28 for a total finance obligation of $16,016.28 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. [¤]Limited time 0.99% APR lease offers on a new 2013 Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 CR-Z // 2013 Accord EX Coupe 6MT (Model CT1A7DJ) // 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) for a maximum of 24 // 24 // 24 // 36 // 24 // 36 months. Representative lease example: 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $440.70 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $10,576.80. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. [^]Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2013 Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 CR-Z // 2013 Accord EX Coupe 6MT (Model CT1A7DJ) // 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) models for a maximum of 36 // 48 // 24 // 48 // 24 // 48 months. Representative finance example: 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and complete price of $25,765, the monthly payment is $1,084.65. Cost of borrowing is $266.60 for a total finance obligation of $26,031.60 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. [§]Limited time 1.99% APR lease offers on a new 2014 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3EES) // 2014 Odyssey models for a maximum of 24 // 24 months. Representative lease example: 2014 Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2EE) on a 24 month term at 1.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $592.44 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $14,218.56. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. [Δ]Receive 1.99% purchase financing on any new 2014 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3EES) // 2014 Odyssey models for a maximum of 36 // 36 months. Representative finance example: 2014 Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2EE) on a 36 month term at 1.99% APR and complete price of $31,820, the monthly payment is $911.27. Cost of borrowing is $985.72 for a total finance obligation of $32,805.72 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. *$1,000 // $1,500 // $2,000 // $1,500 // $2,000 // $3,500 // $2,000 // $2,500 // $4,000 // $5,000 // $5,000 customer cash incentive is valid any new 2013 Fit (except DX, model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Civic Coupe and Sedan (except DX Sedan, model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Accord Coupe (except EX Coupe 6MT, model CTA7DJ) // 2013 Accord Sedan (except LX Sedan 6MT, EX-L V6 Sedan and Touring V6 Sedan, models CR2E3DE, CR3F8DJN and CR3F9DKN) // 2013 Accord EX-L V6 Sedan and Touring V6 Sedan // 2013 Crosstour EX 2WD and EX-L 2WD (models TF3H3DJ, TF3H5DJNX) // 2013 Crosstour EX-L 4WD and EX-L 4WD NAVI (models TF2H5DJNX, TF2H5DKNX) // 2013 CR-V (except LX 2WD, model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Odyssey // 2013 Pilot // 2013 Ridgeline models when registered and delivered between September 4th and September 30th, 2013. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. **Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012.

How does BMW hybrid's tiny engine hit 250km/h?

Me behind the wheel of the disguised new BMW i8, it also has scissor-like doors. PHOTO COURTESY OF BMW

Driving force. German automaker's latest creation sets the bar for weight and fuel consumption and is a true vision of the future

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Automakers have consistently worked to get more power out of smaller engines, but an upcoming BMW model may take the crown. The i8, a sports model planned for sale in Canada next year, accelerates to 100 km/h in 4.5 seconds and can reach 250 km/h—and it's a hybrid with only a three-cylinder engine.

I had an exclusive opportunity to drive a heavily-disguised model at the company's test track in France, where the i8 proved it can run on electricity alone in the city, or hold its own at high speeds with some of the best of today's conventional competitors.

Everyone doing their part

"There will be a clear need for every powertrain in the future to reduce fuel consumption at its maximum."

Dr. Carsten Breitfeld, vice-president of BMW and director of the i8 program

"We need the ability for emission-free driving," says Dr. Carsten Breitfeld, vice-president of BMW and director of the i8 program. "There will be a clear need for every powertrain in the future to reduce fuel consumption at its maximum."

The i8 combines a variety of technologies. Its front wheels are powered by an electric motor, mated to a two-speed transmission that the car uses when running on battery only. After it's recharged by plugging into a wall, the i8 can run almost silently for 35 km on electricity. That's primarily for city use, but it can reach 120 km/h on the battery alone.

The rear wheels are powered by a turbocharged 1.5-litre three-cylinder engine, with a six-speed automatic transmission. During regular and performance driving, the i8 uses a combination of electricity and gasoline, using regenerative braking to recharge the battery while driving. The gas and electric systems, working together, produce 362 horsepower and 420 lb-ft of torque, comparable to what some eight-cylinder engines make.

Since both axles have their own power source, the i8 is all-wheel drive, which improves its handling. Electric motors make their power right away, while gasoline engines have to rev up. BMW solves this disparity with a small, high-voltage electric motor at the rear, which can provide additional power to the rear axle on acceleration.

To offset the heavy powertrain and battery, the i8 is made exclusively of lightweight materials, including an aluminum chassis, carbon fibre body, and plastic panels. The entire car weighs about 1,490 kg.

"What we put into the electric motor, we cut out of the (gasoline) engine," Breitfeld says. "The smaller engine gives smaller fuel consumption, while the electric motor makes it dynamic."

Very pricey

- **Forecast.** BMW estimates that the i8 will get 2.9 L/100 km in combined hybrid driving, and use less than 10 L/100 km in racetrack-style driving.
- **Cost.** Estimates for the i8's Canadian pricing range from $160,000 to $180,000.
- **Sequel.** The i8 is the second car in BMW's "innovation" series, following the all-electric i3 city hatchback.

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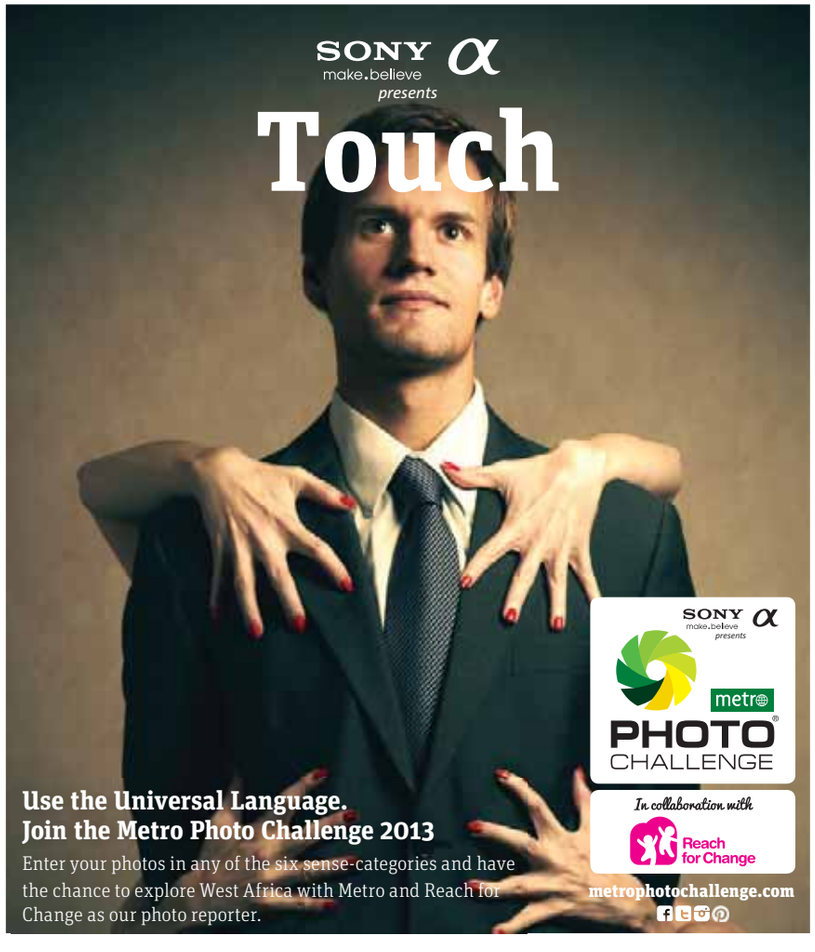

Parts Department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Spill saver

Clothing U.S.-mad-WeatherTech products, including floor and cargo mats, exterior deflectors and vehicle covers, offer protection against water, condensation, dirt and assorted spills. But did you know that the company also sells a product that protects your furniture from the same damage? This set of drink coasters is made from the same material and patterns used to produce floor mats, only on a much smaller scale. They are heat-resistant and their built-in grooves and channels are designed to hold spills just like regular floor mats, which is something a traditional flat coaster can't do. A set of four floor-mat coasters sells for US $10 and are available through weathertech.com.

Robo power

Many garages or workspaces have extension cords piled up in knots on the floor. They're a hassle to roll up and use without getting tangled and caught on things. The RoboReel Power Cord System fixes that little problem, for good. The round orange ball, which houses a 50-foot cord (15.4 metres), swivels a full 360 degrees so you can position it anywhere. The receptacle can handle up to three power tools and/or accessories plugged at the same time. A push of the button either on top of the unit or on the end of the cord automatically reels it slowly back into the unit (no whipsaw effect). RoboReel will stop winding if the cord is obstructed and it also won't inadvertently rewind while in use. RoboReel sells for US $280, while the ceiling-mounted version is $300. Both can be purchased at roboreel.com.

Car cartoons

For some people, a vehicle is simply a Point-A-to-Point-B appliance devoid of sentimental value. Others are totally passionate about their wheels. If you fall into the latter group, Give A Masterpiece can create an 10-inch by eight-inch (25-x20-centimetre) caricature of your car, truck, minivan, or what-have-you (people, too), illustrated from photos you supply. If you wish, you can request a personalized license plate as part of the rendering at extra cost (there's also framing and giftwrapping services). Each "CarToon" is drawn on a choice of paper or canvas with prices starting at US $65, plus shipping. Learn more about the process at giveamasterpiece.com.

You should 'sea' this

Normally, we're skeptics when it comes to pouring stuff into your gas tank or engine. However Sea Foam Motor Treatment appears to actually do what the manufacturer claims, based on feedback from numerous satisfied users who have posted reviews online. This petroleum-based product works on all gasoline and diesel engines, large and small, and is designed to clean and remove deposits from carburetors/fuel injectors and will also stabilize fuel for up to two years. The manufacturer also claims its use won't damage seals, gaskets, catalytic converters or oxygen sensors and it can also be added to engine oil. A can of Sea Foam usually sells for about US $10 and can be bought at most auto parts and department stores. Go to seafoamsales.com for full product details.

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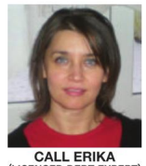
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You don't have to batter your rivals into submission. The planets warn if you come on too strong they could hold a grudge that one day comes back at you. What goes around comes around.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If a friend wants you to make a commitment today, don't refuse out of hand. With Venus, your ruler, linked to Saturn, it is in fact a good time to dedicate yourself to a cause.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may feel as if your hopes and wishes have been thrown into reverse but that is not the case: You are still on track to realize your dream. Focus on something mundane today — you will find that it helps.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may have to play along with someone and make them believe that you are still on their side but tomorrow's full moon will make clear your deception. A partnership will certainly be put to the test.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Try not to say anything that causes resentment. Loved ones are liable to be touchy over the next 24 hours, so weigh your words carefully and, if in doubt, try saying nothing at all.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be the one who speaks up when others are too scared to make their thoughts known. Don't worry that you might provoke a negative response — it's better than no response.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It is pointless arguing with people whose way of looking at life is different to your own. Accept that you'll never see eye-to-eye and find friends you find it easier to converse with.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Venus linked to Saturn in your sign today should remind you that you are rich in the things that matter. Most important among them are relationships and the values you share with those you love.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you withhold information from others, you better have a good reason. The planets warn they won't be happy at being kept in the dark. You may have the right to silence but you don't have to use it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you are upset about a partnership matter, speak up. The longer you suffer in silence, the harder it will become to tell them what is wrong. Don't worry, they'll understand.

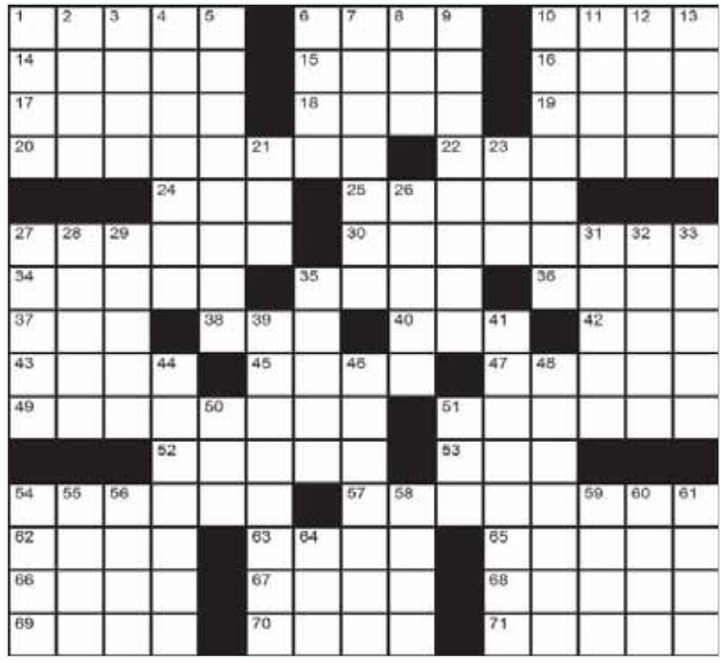
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you believe in what you are doing then it is as good as done. However, if there are doubts in your mind, your progress will falter, so make sure your mind is clear.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may have to postpone something you were looking forward to today but don't get angry about it. A few days from now you will come back to it refreshed and determined to succeed. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

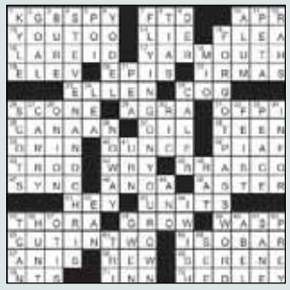
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "General Hospital", and others
6. Rugged cliff
10. 'B' of BFF
14. Ms. Sevigny
15. Swanky transport
16. Ornamental purse
17. World org. based in NYC: 2 wds.
18. Worldwide, wee-ly
19. Land measure
20. British Columbia's capital
22. Be uncertain
24. U2's Ii'l land
25. Ms. Flynn Boyle's
27. Medical building
30. Montreal street; or, surname of Canadian actor Conrad Bain's role on "Diff'Rent Strokes"
34. Thesaurus compiler, Peter Mark __ (b.1779 - d.1869)
35. Not-against votes
36. Quito is its cap.
37. WWII operation, __ Jima
38. Friend ...en francais
40. Sneeze starters...
42. Skirt part
43. Prefix to 'morphosis'
45. "__ Rider" (1969)
47. Sculpt wood
49. "Income __" (Canadian series about creating a home rental unit)
51. Menu option under 'File': 2 wds.
52. Katy Perry's forthcoming album
53. Alien's craft, commonly
54. Tale of myth
57. Winnipeg-born anchor on CNN, Ashleigh __
62. Gumbo ingredient
63. It's pumped at gyms
65. More curious
66. Dish
67. Old, to Robert Burns
68. Resulted in: 2 wds.
69. Increases
70. "The Untouchables" role, Eliot __
71. Sag

Down
1. Canuck comedy sketch show
2. "__, __." (I-didn't-know-you-were-here type of greeting)
3. Sir Guinness
4. Quebec dish
5. Spanish 'Miss'
6. Nero's 152
7. CTV News anchor, Sandie __
8. Li'l quantity
9. Yukon event, Klondike __: 2 wds.
10. "Duh...": 2 wds.
11. Carve into stone
12. "You betcha!"
13. Level
21. Tape a li'l TV show
23. will._.__
26. Wide assortment
27. Make hair wavy
28. Decrease
29. "_ __ __ Extremes" by Billy Joel
31. Earthy pigment
32. __ York (New York, in Spanish)
33. Equivalent titles to 'Sirs' for women
35. Cars of Italy
39. Tragically Hip's "At the Hundredth __"
41. Michelangelo's support in the Sistine Chapel
44. Lost court case recourses
46. Icons
48. One who shuns
50. 'North' suffix
51. Yellow thing in the sky
54. Toronto's Casa
55. Just managed, with Out
56. Diploma-getter, briefly
58. These things: & & &
59. Vegetable stand selection
60. Actor/singer Jared
61. Lose one's grip
64. Actress, Sara __

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7			2	3		6	
4								
				8	6		7	1
7		1		9		3		
			2		5			
		9		1		4		2
9	6		1	5				
								5
	8		6	3			2	

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	4	6	1	9	2	3	8
6	3	8	2	4	5	9	1	7
1	9	2	8	3	7	5	4	6
7	4	3	1	6	2	8	5	9
8	1	9	7	5	4	6	2	3
2	6	5	9	8	3	1	7	4
9	8	7	4	2	1	3	6	5
4	5	1	3	9	6	7	8	2
3	2	6	5	7	8	4	9	1

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23°/18°
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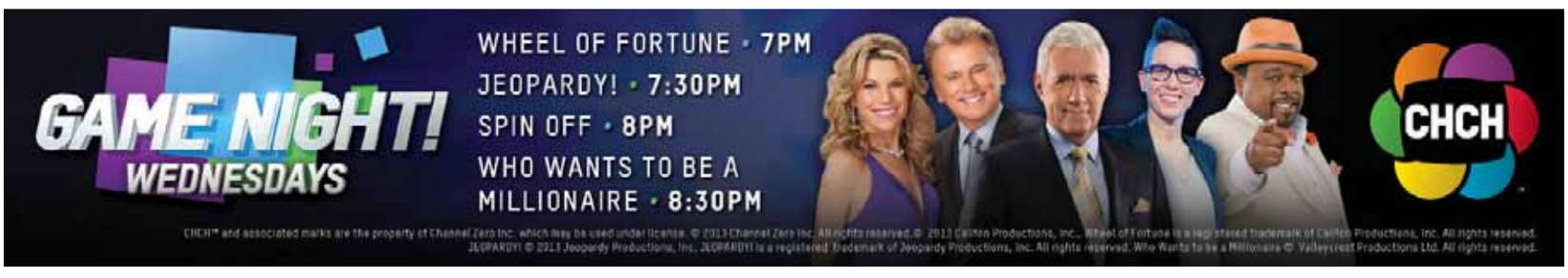

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CITY (M/T): 8.1L/100KM

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CITY (A/T): 8.6L/100KM

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2013 RIO SEDAN

HWY (M/T): 5.3L/100KM
CITY (M/T): 6.9L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$82**≠ BI-WEEKLY

WITH **$0** DOWN

AT **0%** APR

INCLUDED FEATURES:

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